



Milton Library



Research  
07-607 23500

School  
of  
Theology  
Library

250  
Winter Harbor B.S.S. Library  
No 742

















*John A. James*

THE  
HOME  
OF THE  
MUTINEERS.


---

Philadelphia:  
AMERICAN SUNDAY-SCHOOL UNION,  
1122 CHESTNUT STREET.

---

*Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1854, by the*  
*AMERICAN SUNDAY-SCHOOL UNION,*  
*in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the Eastern District of*  
*Pennsylvania.*

---

 No books are published by the AMERICAN SUNDAY-SCHOOL UNION without the sanction of the Committee of Publication, consisting of fourteen members, from the following denominations of Christians, viz. Baptist, Methodist, Congregational, Episcopal, Presbyterian, Lutheran, and Reformed Dutch. Not more than three of the members can be of the same denomination, and no book can be published to which any member of the Committee shall object.



# CONTENTS.

---

## CHAPTER I.

The Bounty—Bread-fruit—Tahiti—Farewell to Tahiti—The mutiny in the ship.....	Page 9
--	--------

## CHAPTER II.

The boat adrift—Murder of Norton—Sufferings and escapes—Fejee Islands—Timor—Batavia—Arrival of Bligh and eleven men in England.....	32
---	----

## CHAPTER III.

Legal proceedings in consequence of the mutiny—Churchill and Thompson—Wreck of the Pandora—Peter Heywood and his family—Letters from Nessy Heywood and others—Peter Heywood's narrative—Trial of the mutineers—The king's pardon—Honourable career of Captain Heywood.....	71
1*	5

## CHAPTER IV.

Christian and his party—Pitcairn's Island—Folger's Account—Landing of nine mutineers and others at Pitcairn—Dreadful deaths of Christian and others—Intolerable state of society at Pitcairn—Intemperance—Retribution from God..... *Page* 135

## CHAPTER V.

John Adams turns to God—Instructs the children—The state of Pitcairn in 1814 described—Account given by Sir Thomas Staines and Captain Pipon—Captain Beechey—Death of John Adams..... 157

## CHAPTER VI.

Mr. Nobbs—Some account of his life—Earl Waldegrave's letter—Emigration to Tahiti—Queen Pomaré—Return of the emigrants—Manner of government—Dress and habits..... 195

## CHAPTER VII.

Good conduct of visitors—The Pitcairner's day—Household arrangements—Temperance—Literature—Transaction of business—Musical class—Services of Mr. Nobbs—Testimony—Letters—The school... 223

## CHAPTER VIII.

Invitation to Admiral Moresby—Visit of an English admiral to the island—His letters and those of his secretary and chaplain—Arrival at Valparaiso— Mr. Nobbs in England—His ordination—His inter- view with the Queen and Prince Albert—Return homeward by Navy Bay and the Isthmus of Panama —Intelligence from Pitcairn—The first communion on the island.....	<i>Page</i> 263
---	-----------------

## CHAPTER IX.

Some account of the laws of Pitcairn—The Island Register—List of vessels mentioned in this work which have touched at the island—Melancholy ac- cident on the island.....	300
CONCLUSION.....	314



# HOME OF THE MUTINEERS.

---

## CHAPTER I.

THE BOUNTY—BREAD-FRUIT—TAHITI—FAREWELL TO TA-  
HITI—THE MUTINY IN THE SHIP.

IN the year 1787, an armed ship, called the *Bounty*, was fitted out by the English government, to proceed to the South Sea islands for plants of the bread-fruit tree, which afforded to the inhabitants of those islands, and of Tahiti especially, the greater portion of their food. This step was taken in consequence of representations made to George the Third, king of England, by merchants and planters interested in the English West Indian possessions.

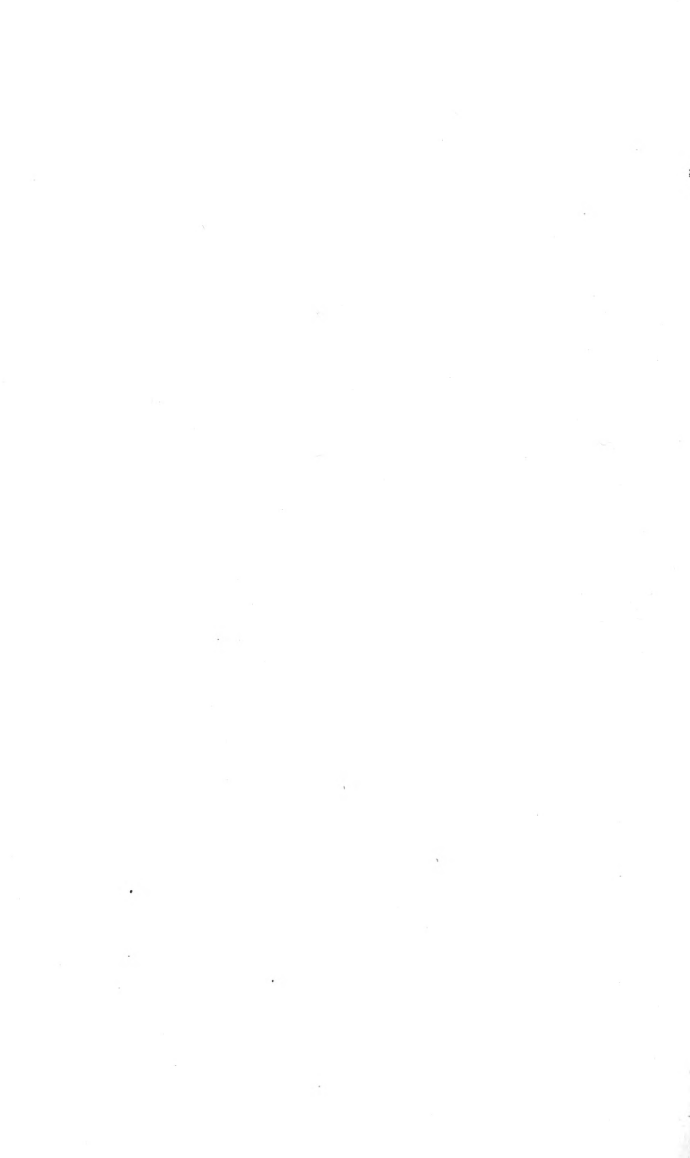
The command of the ship was given to Lieutenant William Bligh, who was then about thirty-three years of age; and had been sailing-master under Captain Cook,

being four years with that great navigator in the *Resolution*. He was appointed in August, 1787, both commander and purser of the *Bounty*, which was stored and victualled for eighteen months. Besides this provision, he had supplies of portable soup, essence of meat, sour-kROUT, and dried malt; to which were added some articles of iron and steel, trinkets, beads, and looking-glasses, for traffic with the natives. The plants (the best he could obtain) he was to convey to the West Indies, in order to cultivate them if possible for the support of the slave population—it having been the opinion of Sir Joseph Banks, who had visited Tahiti with Captain Cook in 1769, that the bread-fruit tree might be successfully cultivated in those colonies.

The bread-fruit grows on a tree which is about the size of a common oak, and, toward the top, divides into large and spreading branches. The leaves are of a very deep green. The fruit springs from twigs, and grows to the size of a young infant's head. It has a thick rind; and before becoming ripe, it is gathered, and baked in



The Bread Fruit.





an oven, when the inner part is like the crumb of wheaten bread, and found to be very nutritive. Captain William Dampier, who sailed round the world in the year 1688, describes the bread-fruit as having "neither seed nor stone in the inside; but all of pure substance like bread. It must be eaten new; for if it is kept above twenty-four hours, it grows harsh and choaky; but it is very pleasant before it is too stale. This fruit lasts in season eight months of the year, during which the natives of Guam eat no other sort of food of bread kind. I did never," says he, "see of this fruit anywhere but here. The natives told us that there is plenty of this fruit growing on the rest of the Ladrone Islands; and I did never hear of it anywhere else."

Lord Anson corroborates this account of the bread-fruit, and says that while at Tinian it was constantly eaten by his officers and ship's company during their two months' stay, instead of bread; and so universally preferred, that no ship's bread was expended in that whole interval. The

only essential difference between Dampier's and Cook's description is, where the latter says, which is true, that this fruit has a *core*, and that the eatable part lies between the skin and the core. Cook says also that its taste is insipid, with a slight sweetness, somewhat resembling that of the crumb of wheaten bread mixed with a Jerusalem artichoke. From such a description, it is not surprising that the West India planters should have felt desirous of introducing it into those islands; and accordingly the introduction of it was subsequently accomplished, notwithstanding the failure of the present voyage. It has not, however, been found to answer the expectation that had reasonably been entertained. The climate, as to latitude, ought to be the same, or nearly so, as that of Tahiti, but there would appear to be some difference in the situation or nature of the soil, that prevents it from thriving in the West India islands.

The *Bounty*, of nearly 215 tons burden, left Spithead on the 23d of December, 1787, carrying forty-six persons, including

the commander, and a botanist, and gardener. They started with a fresh breeze, which moderated on the 25th, so that they were able to keep the Christmas festival with cheerfulness; but it increased to such a heavy gale by the 27th, that the vessel suffered damage; a sea which she shipped having broken some of the planks of the boats, and an azimuth compass. It also wet and injured a few bags of bread in the cabin, which, when the weather improved, were got up, and dried. The voyage was attended with many circumstances of difficulty and danger. The few hours of respite from the hard westerly winds that blew, were, according to a fine expression in Lord Anson's voyage, like the elements drawing breath, to return upon them with redoubled violence. Having tried in vain, in a tempestuous ocean, to go by Cape Horn, they at last made a passage round the Cape of Good Hope; and having visited Van Diemen's Land, and New Zealand, the ship arrived at Tahiti, anchoring in Mata-vai Bay, at ten in the forenoon of the 26th

of October, 1788, having sailed over more than 27,000 miles of ocean.

The voyagers were received with kindness by the natives, who asked after Captain Cook, Sir Joseph Banks, and others who had visited them some years before. But their first inquiries of the strangers were, if they were *Tyos*, which signifies, friends; and whether they came from *Pre-tanie*, (Britain.) Having become satisfied on these two important points, they instantly crowded the deck in such numbers, that Bligh could scarcely find his own people. He had prepared and written down certain rules to be observed by all his men for facilitating a trade for provisions, and establishing a good understanding with the natives. Immediately on anchoring, these orders were stuck up on the mizen-mast. It was against the rules to purchase curiosities, or provisions, except by application to a person duly appointed as a purveyor. With respect to curiosities, it appears that none struck the seamen so forcibly as a roasted pig, and some bread-fruit; and these came in abundance.

Nelson, the gardener, and his assistant, being sent out to look for young plants, it was no small degree of pleasure to find them report, on their return, that according to appearances, the object of the voyage would probably be accomplished with ease; the plants were plentiful, and no apparent objection on the part of the natives to collect as many as might be wanted.

Presents were now given to Otoo, the chief of Matavai, who had changed his name to Tinah. He was told, that on account of the kindness of his people to Captain Cook, and from a desire to serve him and his country, King George had sent out those valuable presents to him: "And will you not, Tinah," said Bligh, "send something to King George in return?"—"Yes," he said, "I will send him any thing I have;" and then began to enumerate the different articles in his power, among which he mentioned the bread-fruit. This was the exact point to which Bligh was endeavouring to lead him, and he was immediately told that the bread-fruit trees were what King George would

like very much; on which he promised that a great many should be put on board.

Having passed about six pleasant months in the island, and collected plants, the party took leave of their friends at Tahiti, and put to sea again April 27, 1789.

It is probable that Bligh would have been spared much trouble and misery had he quitted Tahiti sooner; but he had been prevailed upon by the kindness of the chiefs to delay his departure; and during the interchange of friendly civilities and hospitable receptions, both on board the *Bounty* and on shore, three of the men belonging to the ship, of whom more will be said presently, deserted, taking with them the small cutter, a chest of fire-arms and ammunition. They were soon captured by Bligh, with the help of some of the natives, at a neighbouring island, Tettaha. These three deserters wrote a letter of humble acknowledgment to their captain, for his clemency in not bringing them to trial, and promised good conduct in future: but they were very soon afterward engaged in a mutiny.

On the 27th of April, the *Bounty* was off Tofoa, one of the Friendly Islands. The day had closed, and the moon was shining mildly on the water, when the commander came on deck. It was one of those calm and beautiful nights, so common in tropical regions, whose soothing influence can only be appreciated by those who have felt it. After a scorching day the air breathed a refreshing coolness: a gentle breeze scarcely rippled the water, and the moon shed its soft light along the surface of the sea. Little did Bligh think, as he gazed upon the lovely scene, of the fearful deeds that would be enacted on his ship before the sun rose again. Little did he dream that he now for the last time trod the deck of the *Bounty* as its commander. Yet so it was—while the commander was pacing the ship's deck in the soft moonlight, one of his officers was brooding over his wrongs and meditating the fearful crime of mutiny. We will let Captain Bligh tell the story in his own words.

“In the morning of the 28th April, the north-westernmost of the Friendly Islands,

called Tofoa, bearing north-east, I was steering to the westward, with a ship in most perfect order, all my plants in a most flourishing condition, all my men and officers in good health, and, in short, every thing to flatter and insure my most sanguine expectations. On leaving the deck I gave directions for the course to be steered during the night. The master had the first watch, the gunner the middle watch, and Mr. Christian the morning watch. This was the turn of duty for the night.

“Just before sun-rising, while I was yet asleep, Mr. Christian, officer of the watch, Charles Churchill, ship’s corporal, John Mills, gunner’s mate, and Thomas Burkitt, seaman, came into my cabin, and seizing me, tied my hands with a cord behind my back, threatening me with instant death if I spoke or made the least noise. I called, however, as loud as I could, in hopes of assistance; but they had already secured the officers who were not of their party, by placing sentinels at their doors. There were three men at my cabin-door, besides the four within. Christian had only a cut-



lass in his hand, the others had muskets and bayonets. I was hauled out of bed, and forced on deck in my shirt, suffering great pain from the tightness with which they had tied my hands. I demanded the reason of such violence, but received no other answer than abuse for not holding my tongue. The master, the gunner, the master's mate, and Nelson were kept confined below; and the fore-hatchway was guarded by sentinels. The boatswain and carpenter, and also Mr. Samuel the clerk, were allowed to come on deck, where they saw me standing abaft the mizenmast, with my hands tied behind my back, under a guard, with Christian at their head. The boatswain was ordered to hoist the launch out, with a threat, if he did not do it instantly, to take care of himself.

“When the boat was out, Mr. Hayward and Mr. Hallet, two of the midshipmen, and Mr. Samuel, were ordered into it. I demanded what their intention was in giving this order, and endeavoured to persuade the people near me not to persist in such acts of violence; but it was to no

effect—‘Hold your tongue, sir, or you are dead this instant,’ was constantly repeated to me.

“I continued my endeavours to turn the tide of affairs, when Christian changed the cutlass which he had in his hand for a bayonet that was brought to him, and holding me with a strong gripe by the cord that tied my hands, he threatened, with many oaths, to kill me immediately, if I would not be quiet; the villains round me had their pieces cocked and bayonets fixed. Particular persons were called on to go into the boat, and were hurried over the side; whence I concluded that with these people I was to be set adrift. I therefore made another effort to bring about a change, but with no other effect than to be threatened with having my brains blown out.

“The boatswain and seamen who were to go in the boat were allowed to collect twine, canvas, lines, sails, cordage, and an eight-and-twenty gallon cask of water; and Mr. Samuel got one hundred and fifty pounds of bread, with a small quantity of rum and wine, also a quadrant and com-

pass; but he was forbidden, on pain of death, to touch either map, ephemeris, book of astronomical observations, sextant, timekeeper, or any of my surveys or drawings.

“The mutineers having forced into the boat those of the seamen whom they meant to get rid of, Christian directed a dram to be served to each of his own crew. I then unhappily saw that nothing could be done to effect the recovery of the ship: there was no one to assist me, and every endeavour on my part was answered with threats of death.

“The officers were next called upon deck, and forced over the side into the boat, while I was kept apart from every one, abaft the mizenmast; Christian, armed with a bayonet, holding me by the bandage that secured my hands. The guard round me had their pieces cocked, but on my daring the ungrateful wretches to fire, they uncocked them.

“Isaac Martin, one of the guard over me, I saw had an inclination to assist me, and as he fed me with shaddock (my lips

being quite parched) we explained our wishes to each other by our looks; but this being observed, Martin was removed from me. He then attempted to leave the ship, for which purpose he got into the boat; but with many threats they obliged him to return.

“The armourer, and two of the carpenters, were also kept contrary to their inclination; and they begged of me, after I was astern in the boat, to remember that they declared they had no hand in the transaction.

“It appeared to me that Christian was some time in doubt whether he should keep the carpenter or his mates; at length he determined on the latter, and the carpenter was ordered into the boat. He was permitted, but not without some opposition, to take his tool-chest.

“Much altercation took place among the mutinous crew during the whole business; some swore ‘that we would find our way home;’ and when the carpenter’s chest was carrying away, said, ‘he will have a vessel built in a month;’ while others laughed

at the helpless situation of the boat, being very deep, and so little room for those who were in her. As for Christian, he seemed as if meditating destruction on himself and every one else.

“I asked for arms, but they laughed at me, and said I was well acquainted with the people among whom I was going, and therefore did not want them. Four cutlasses, however, were thrown into the boat after we were veered astern.

“The officers and men being in the boat, they only waited for me, of which the master-at-arms informed Christian; who then said, ‘Come, Captain Bligh, your officers and men are now in the boat, and you must go with them; if you attempt to make the least resistance, you will instantly be put to death;’ and without further ceremony, with a tribe of armed ruffians about me, I was forced over the side, when they untied my hands. Being in the boat, we were veered astern by a rope. A few pieces of pork were thrown to us, and some clothes, also the cutlasses I have already mentioned; and it was then

that the armourer and carpenters called out to me to remember that they had no hand in the transaction. After having undergone a great deal of ridicule, and been kept for some time to make sport for these unfeeling wretches, we were at length cast adrift in the open ocean.

“I had with me in the boat the following persons :

<i>Names.</i>	<i>Stations.</i>
John Fryer.....	Master.
Thomas Ledward.....	Acting Surgeon.
David Nelson.....	Botanist.
William Peckover.....	Gunner.
William Cole.....	Boatswain.
William Purcell.....	Carpenter.
William Elphinstone.....	Master's Mate.
Thomas Hayward } John Hallet }	..... Midshipmen.
John Norton } Peter Lenkletter }	..... Quarter-masters.
Lawrence Lebogue.....	Cooks.
John Smith } Thomas Hall }	..... Sailmaker.
George Simpson.....	..... Quarter-master's Mate
Robert Tinkler.....	A Boy.
Robert Lamb.....	Butcher.
Mr. Samuel .....	Clerk.

In all eighteen.

“There remained in the *Bounty*—

<i>Names.</i>	<i>Stations.</i>
Fletcher Christian.....	Master's Mate
Peter Heywood	} .....Midshipmen.
Edward Young	
George Stewart	
Charles Churchill .....	Master-at-arms.
John Mills.....	Gunner's Mate.
James Morrison.....	Boatswain's Mate.
Thomas Burkitt	} .....Able Seamen.
Matthew Quintal	
John Sumner	
John Milward	
William McKoy	
Henry Hillbrant	
Michael Byrne	
William Musprat	
Alexander Smith	
John Williams	
Thomas Ellison	
Isaac Martin	
Richard Skinner	
Matthew Thompson	
William Brown.....	Gardener.
Joseph Coleman....	Armourer.
Charles Norman....	Carpenter's Mate.
Thomas McIntosh .....	Carpenter's Crew.

In all twenty-five—and the most able of the ship's company.

“Christian, the chief of the mutineers, is of a respectable family in the North of England. This was the third voyage he

had made with me; and as I found it necessary to keep my ship's company at three watches, I had given him an order to take charge of the third, his abilities being thoroughly equal to the task.

"Heywood is also of a respectable family in the North of England, and a young man of abilities.

"Young was well recommended, and had the look of an able, stout seaman; he, however, fell short of what his appearance promised.

"Stewart was a young man of creditable parents in the Orkneys, and had always borne a good character."

The question naturally arises, What were the motives that led to this violent outbreak? To this it is somewhat difficult to return a clear answer, nor is there reason to believe that those engaged in the mutiny, well knew what their aim was, beyond the gratification of a revengeful feeling toward their commander. An examination of the narration given by different actors in the tragedy, leads to the belief that had Captain Bligh feared God



and kept his commandments—had he restrained his temper and controlled his tongue, he would have been spared much misery, and these wretched men have been saved from the commission of an atrocious crime. On the other hand, had the young officer, Fletcher Christian, not brooded over his wrongs, and nursed revengeful feelings in his breast, he would not have perpetrated this cruel deed, turning adrift eighteen unoffending shipmates with the commander, whom he was bound to obey, in a little boat on the wide ocean, nor would he have met a wretched and bloody death. *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.* Had Captain Bligh possessed this wisdom, he would have learned a better way of maintaining his authority than oaths and abuse; and had Fletcher Christian begun in his youth to fear and serve the Lord, he would not have looked for happiness in the commission of crime. He made a wretched choice and suffered the consequences of his sin and folly. May the youth of our land learn from this story, that it is true wisdom to obey the

teachings of the Bible, and remember that rebellion, mutiny and revenge are gateways to misery here, and wailings and wo hereafter!

It appears that some of the officers under Bligh were men not possessing the dignity and the ability which became their station. This was to him a constant source of irritation. Although he was a man of many good qualities, and an able officer, as was shown by his conduct when thus set adrift, as well as in after life, his passionate temper led him to indulge in such abuse of both officers and men, who doubtless often gave him provocation, as to lead to a most unhappy state of ill-will between them and their commander. Upon the afternoon which preceded the mutiny, he had accused Christian of theft, and indulged in language which aroused in him feelings of intense anger. Anger led to a desire for revenge, and an invitation from his commander to sup with him, which showed a willingness to forget the quarrel, was refused.

His first determination was to quit the

ship himself, and make his way to one of the neighbouring islands. His own statement to a companion in the mutiny was—that, “finding himself much hurt by the treatment he had received from Lieutenant Bligh, he had determined to quit the ship the preceding evening, and had informed the boatswain, carpenter, and two midshipmen of his intention to do so; and by them he was supplied with part of a roasted pig, some nails, beads, and other articles of trade, which he put into a bag. He said he had fastened some staves to a stout plank, with which he intended to make his escape; but finding he could not effect it during the first and middle watches, as the ship had no way through the water and the people were all moving about, he laid down to rest about half-past three in the morning; that when Mr. Stewart called him to relieve the deck at four o’clock, he had but just fallen asleep, and was much out of order; upon observing which Mr. Stewart strenuously advised him to abandon his intention; that as soon as he had taken charge of the deck, he saw Mr. Hay-

ward, the mate of his watch, lie down on the arm-chest to take a nap; and finding that Mr. Hallet, the other midshipman, did not make his appearance, he suddenly formed the resolution of seizing the ship. Disclosing his intention to Matthew Quintal and Isaac Martin, both of whom had been flogged by Lieutenant Bligh, they called up Charles Churchill, who had also tasted the cat, and Matthew Thompson, both of whom readily joined in the plot. That Alexander Smith, (*alias* John Adams,) John Williams, and William McKoy evinced equal willingness, and went with Churchill to the armourer, of whom they obtained the keys of the arm-chest, under pretence of wanting a musket to fire at a shark then alongside; that finding Mr. Hallet asleep on the arm-chest in the main-hatchway, they roused and sent him on deck. Charles Norman, unconscious of their proceedings, had in the mean time awakened Mr. Hayward and directed his attention to the shark, whose movement he was watching at the moment that Mr. Christian and his confederates came up the fore-hatchway, after

having placed arms in the hands of several men who were not aware of their design. One man, Matthew Thompson, was left in charge of the chest, and he served out arms to Thomas Burkitt and Robert Lamb. He then proceeded to secure Lieutenant Bligh, the master, gunner, and botanist."

Captain Bligh's treatment of his men had failed to make them his cordial friends, and the instigation of a passionate youth served to turn the tide in favour of revolt. Flushed with the thought of unrestricted liberty, self-indulgence, and revenge, they seconded him in his deeds of violence, and their commander and eighteen companions were cast adrift! Little did these wicked and misguided men think, when shouting with joy at their mis-called liberty, what troubles they were bringing upon their own heads. Could they but have foreseen the misery which would be visited upon them, they would not have dared thus to provoke the vengeance of God.

## CHAPTER II.

THE BOAT ADrift—MURDER OF NORTON—SUFFERINGS AND  
ESCAPES—FEEJEE ISLANDS—TIMOR—BATAVIA—ARRIVAL  
OF BLIGH AND ELEVEN MEN IN ENGLAND.

CHRISTIAN had intended to send away his captain and associates in the cutter, and ordered that it should be hoisted out for that purpose, which was done—a small wretched boat, that could hold but eight or ten men at the most, with a very small additional weight; and, what was still worse, she was so worm-eaten and decayed, especially in the bottom planks, that the probability was, she would have gone down before she had proceeded a mile from the ship. In this “rotten carcass of a boat,” did Christian intend to cast adrift his late commander and his eighteen innocent companions, or as many of them as she would stow, to find, as they inevitably must have found, a watery grave. But

the remonstrances of the master, boatswain, and carpenter prevailed on him to let those unfortunate men have the launch, into which nineteen persons were thrust, whose weight, together with that of the few articles they were permitted to take, brought down the boat so near to the water as to endanger her sinking with but a moderate swell of the sea—and to all human appearance, in no state to survive the length of voyage they were destined to perform over the wide ocean, but which they did most miraculously survive.

The first consideration of Lieutenant Bligh and his eighteen unfortunate companions, on being cast adrift in their open boat, was to examine the state of their resources. The quantity of provisions which they found to have been thrown into the boat by some few kind-hearted messmates amounted to one hundred and fifty pounds of bread, sixteen pieces of pork, each weighing two pounds, six quarts of rum, six bottles of wine, with twenty-eight gallons of water, and four empty barricoes. Being so near to the island of Tofoa, it was

resolved to seek there a supply of bread-fruit and water, to preserve if possible the above-mentioned stock entire; but after rowing along the coast, they discovered only some cocoa-nut trees on the top of high precipices, from which, with much danger, owing to the surf, and great difficulty in climbing the cliffs, they succeeded in obtaining about twenty nuts. The second day they made excursions into the island, but without success. They met, however, with a few natives, who came down with them to the cove where the boat was lying; and others presently followed. They made inquiries after the ship, and Bligh advised they should say that the ship had upset and sunk, and that they only were saved. This story was as unwise as it was untrue. The people of the island, however, brought in small quantities of bread-fruit, plantains, and cocoanuts, but little or no water could be procured. These supplies, scanty as they were, served to keep up the spirits of the men. "They no longer," says Bligh, "regarded me with those anxious looks which



had constantly been directed toward me since we lost sight of the ship : every countenance appeared to have a degree of cheerfulness, and they all seemed determined to do their best."

The numbers of the natives having so much increased as to line the whole beach, they began knocking stones together, which was known to be the preparatory signal for an attack. With some difficulty, on account of the surf, the seamen succeeded in getting the things that were on shore into the boat, together with all the men, except John Norton, quarter-master, who was casting off the stern-fast. The natives immediately rushed upon this poor man, and actually stoned him to death. A volley of stones was also discharged at the boat, and every one in it was more or less hurt. This induced the people to push out to sea with all the speed they were able to give to the launch; but to their surprise and alarm, several canoes filled with stones followed close after them and renewed the attack; against which, the only return the unfortunate men who, it must be remem

bered, had no fire-arms, could make, was with the stones of the assailants that lodged in her, a species of warfare in which they were very inferior to the Indians. The only expedient left was to tempt the enemy to desist from the pursuit, by throwing overboard some clothes, which fortunately induced the canoes to stop and pick them up; and night coming on, they returned to the shore, leaving the party in the boat to reflect on their unhappy situation.

The men now entreated their commander to take them toward home; and on being told that no hope of relief could be entertained till they reached Timor, a distance of full twelve hundred leagues, or 3600 miles, they all readily agreed to be content with an allowance, which, on calculation of their resources, the commander informed them would not exceed one ounce of bread and a quarter of a pint of water per day. Recommending them, therefore, in the most solemn manner, not to depart from their promise in this respect, "we bore away," says Bligh, "across a sea where

the navigation is but little known, in a small boat, twenty-three feet long from stem to stern, deeply laden with eighteen men. I was happy, however, to see that every one seemed better satisfied with our situation than myself. It was about eight o'clock at night on the 2d May when we bore away under a reefed lug-foresail; and having divided the people into watches, and got the boat into a little order, we returned thanks to God for our miraculous preservation, and in full confidence of his gracious support, I found my mind more at ease than it had been for some time past."

At daybreak on the 3d, the forlorn and almost hopeless navigators saw with alarm the sun to rise fiery and red—a sure indication of a severe gale of wind; and accordingly, at eight o'clock it blew a violent storm, and the sea ran so very high, that the sail was becalmed when between the seas, and too much to have set when on the top of the sea; yet it is stated that they could not venture to take it in, as they were in very imminent danger and

distress, the sea curling over the stern of the boat, and obliging them to bale with all their might. "A situation," observes the commander, "more distressing has, perhaps, seldom been experienced."

The bread, being in bags, was in the greatest danger of being spoiled by the wet, the consequence of which, if not prevented, must have been fatal, as the whole party would inevitably be starved to death, if they should fortunately escape the fury of the waves. It was determined, therefore, that all superfluous clothes, with some rope and spare sails, should be thrown overboard, by which the boat was considerably lightened. The carpenter's tool-chest was cleared, and the tools stowed in the bottom of the boat, and the bread secured in the chest. All the people being thoroughly wet and cold, a teaspoonful of rum was served out to each person, with a quarter of a bread-fruit, (which is stated to have been scarcely eatable,) for dinner; Bligh having determined to preserve sacredly, and at the peril of his life, the engagement they entered into, and to make their smal.

stock of provisions last eight weeks, let the daily proportion be ever so small.

The sea continuing to run even higher than in the morning, the fatigue of baling became very great; the boat was necessarily kept before the sea. The men were constantly wet, the night very cold, and at daylight their limbs were so benumbed that they could scarcely find the use of them. At this time a teaspoonful of rum served out to each person was found of great benefit to all. Five small cocoa-nuts were distributed for dinner, and every one was satisfied; and in the evening a few broken pieces of bread-fruit were served for supper, after which prayers were offered.

On the night of the 4th and morning of the 5th the gale had abated; the first step to be taken was to examine the state of the bread, a great part of which was found to be damaged and rotten—but even this was carefully preserved for use. The boat was now running among some islands, but after their reception at Tofoa, they did not venture to land. On the 6th they still continued to see islands at a distance; and

this day, for the first time, they hooked a fish, to their great joy; "but," says the commander, "we were miserably disappointed by its being lost in trying to get it into the boat." In the evening each person had an ounce of the damaged bread, and a quarter of a pint of water for supper.

Lieutenant Bligh observes, "it will readily be supposed our lodgings were very miserable and confined for want of room;" but he endeavoured to remedy the latter defect by putting themselves at watch and watch; so that one half always sat up, while the other lay down on the boat's bottom, or upon a chest, but with nothing to cover them except the heavens. Their limbs, he says, were dreadfully cramped, for they could not stretch them out; and the nights were so cold, and they were so constantly wet, that after a few hours' sleep, they were scarcely able to move.

On the 7th another group of islands was seen, from whence they observed two large canoes in pursuit of them, one of which, at four o'clock in the afternoon, had arrived within two miles of the boat, when the

savages gave up the chase, and returned to shore. Mr. Bligh concluded, from their direction, that these must have been the Feejee Islands.

The appearance of these islands, especially of the two largest, is generally very beautiful and interesting. They are well-wooded, and have extensive rivers. Little, however, is known respecting the interior: nor would it be safe to penetrate into the country without an armed party.

Bligh, in his defenceless state, appears to have had a fortunate escape from the Feejeeans, who are not only cunning, cruel, and vindictive, but are to be ranked among the vilest cannibals. This horrid custom of theirs is the more remarkable, as they excel their neighbours in talent and ingenuity. Cannibalism prevails everywhere among them, except in the places in which Christianity has made progress. Captain Worth was informed by Mr. Hunt, connected with the Wesleyan Mission, that not fewer than five hundred persons had been eaten within fifteen miles of his residence, during the five years previous

Many of the Feejeeans acknowledge that they greatly prefer human flesh to any animal food whatever. Much more might be said on the frightful traits of character which have been drawn of these people. But it is time to return to the band of men who had, up to that time, been wonderfully preserved from threatening dangers.

A small blank book, which had been commenced in the *Bounty*, for the insertion of signals, was now found very serviceable in the launch. But being constantly wet, Bligh says, "it is with the utmost difficulty I can open a book to write, and I feel truly sensible I can do no more than point out where these lands are to be found, and give some idea of their extent." Heavy rain came on in the afternoon, when every person in the boat did his utmost to catch some water, and thus succeeded in increasing their stock to thirty-four gallons, besides quenching their thirst—the first time they had been able to do so since they had been at sea: but it seems an attendant consequence of the heavy rain caused them to pass the night very mise-



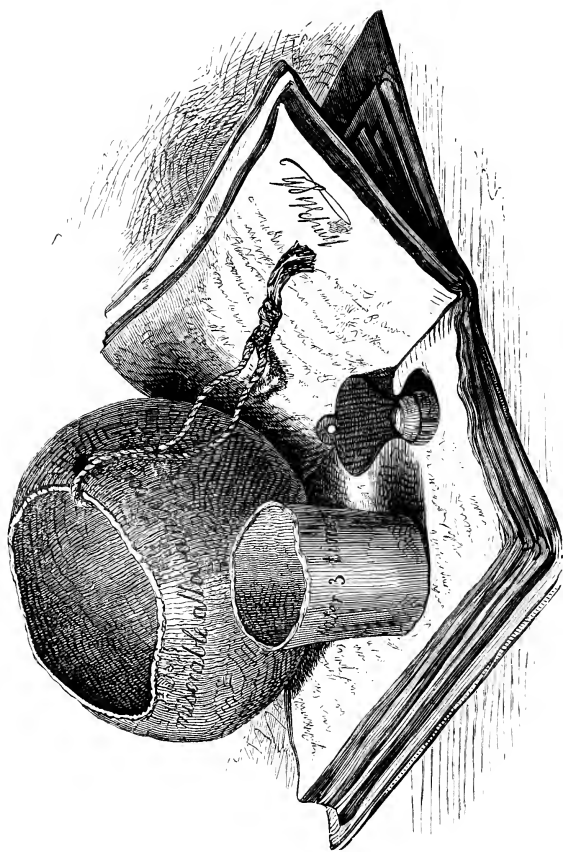
rably ; for being extremely wet, and having no dry things to shift or cover themselves, they experienced cold and shiverings scarcely to be conceived.

We cannot without pity contemplate the case of these poor men thus traversing an almost unexplored ocean for 3600 miles. Their boat was sunk almost to the water's edge by the weight of the nineteen persons crowded into it so closely that they could not stretch their limbs. Exposed to constant wet and cold, their suffering from cramps was great. Their food, one ounce of bread and a half-glass of water a day, gave them little strength to endure without cover the changes of storm and sunshine. Yet we rejoice to find them acknowledging the hand of God in his providence, and returning thanks to him for his wonderful protection of their lives. They frequently used a prayer drawn up by their commander. This prayer, which is still preserved by the family of Captain, afterward Vice-Admiral Bligh, in his own hand-writing, includes an humble confession of sins on the part of those who were

suffering under the Divine chastisement, invokes the Almighty's protection for the future, and contains a thanksgiving to Him who rules the sea, and who had rescued these, his afflicted creatures, from the jaws of death.

"Hitherto," Bligh says, on the 8th, "I had issued the allowance by guess, but I now made a pair of scales with two cocoa-nut shells; and having accidentally some pistol-balls in the boat, twenty-five of which weighed one pound, or sixteen ounces, I adopted one of these balls as the proportion of weight that each person should receive of bread at the times I served it. I also amused all hands with describing the situations of New Guinea and New Holland, and gave them every information in my power, that in case any accident should happen to me, those who survived might have some idea of what they were about, and be able to find their way to Timor, which at present they knew nothing of more than the name, and some not even that. At night I served a quarter of a





pint of water and half an ounce of bread for supper.

The annexed engraving, from a drawing made from the originals, shows the bowl, or gourd, out of which the commander took his meals; the bullet-weight; the little quarter-of-a-pint horn mug for serving out the water; and, though last, not the least interesting, Bligh's own boat-log-book. All these are much treasured by his daughters, who kindly permitted them to be sketched.

The diameter of the gourd is rather more than five inches: the depth nearly four inches. The following words are cut with a knife under the string:

*W. Bligh, April, 1789.*

Written in ink round the gourd:

*The cup I eat my miserable allowance out of.*

The horn cup is about two inches in depth, and not quite two inches in diameter. Round it are these words written in ink by Bligh:

*Allowance of water 3 times a day.*

The bullet is set in a small hasp-shaped

metal plate, which Bligh afterward used to wear suspended by a riband round his neck. Above the bullet are these words :

*This bullet,  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a lb., was the allowance of Bread which supported 18 men for 48 days, served to each person three times a day.*

On the obverse

*Under the command of Captain Will. Bligh from the 28th April, 1789, to the 14th of June following.*

On the morning of the 9th, a quarter of a pint of cocoa-nut milk and some of the decayed bread were served for breakfast; and for dinner, the kernels of four cocoanuts, with the remainder of the rotten bread, which, he says, was eatable only by such distressed people as themselves. A storm of thunder and lightning gave them about twenty gallons of water. "Being miserably wet and cold, I served to the people a teaspoonful of rum each, to enable them to bear with their distressing situation. The weather continued extremely bad, and the wind increased; we spent a very miserable night, without sleep, except such as could be got in the midst of rain."

The following day, the 10th, brought no

relief, except that of its light. The sea broke over the boat so much, that two men were kept constantly baling; and it was necessary to keep the boat before the waves for fear of its filling. The allowance now served regularly to each person was one twenty-fifth part of a pound of bread and a quarter of a pint of water, at eight in the morning, at noon, and at sunset. To-day was added about half an ounce of pork for dinner, which, though any moderate person would have considered only as a mouthful, was divided into three or four.

On the morning of the 11th, "our situation was extremely dangerous, the sea frequently running over our stern, which kept us baling with all our strength. At noon the sun appeared, which gave us as much pleasure as is felt when it shows itself on a winter's day in England.

"In the evening of the 12th it still rained hard, and we again experienced a dreadful night. At length the day came, and showed a miserable set of beings, full of wants, without any thing to relieve them. Some complained of great pain in their bowels,

and every one of having almost lost the use of his limbs. The little sleep we got was in no way refreshing, as we were constantly covered with the sea and rain. The weather continuing, and no sun affording the least prospect of getting our clothes dried, I recommended to every one to strip and wring them through the sea-water, by which means they received a warmth that, while wet with rain-water, they could not have."

On the 13th and 14th the stormy weather and heavy sea continued unabated, and on these days they saw distant land, and passed several islands. The sight of these islands, it may well be supposed, served only to increase the misery of their situation. They were as men very little better than starving with plenty in their view; yet, to attempt procuring any relief was considered to be attended with so much danger, that the prolongation of life, even in the midst of misery, was thought preferable, while there remained hopes of being able to surmount their hardships.

On the morning of the 17th, at dawn



of day, "I found," says the commander, "every person complaining, and some of them solicited extra allowance, which I positively refused. Our situation was miserable; always wet, and suffering extreme cold in the night, without the least shelter from the weather.

The same weather continued through the 19th and 20th; the rain constant—at times a deluge—the men always baling; the commander, too, found it necessary to issue for dinner only half an ounce of pork.

At dawn of day, Lieutenant Bligh states, that some of his people seemed half dead; that their appearances were horrible; "and I could look," says he, "no way, but I caught the eye of some one in distress. Extreme hunger was now too evident, but no one suffered from thirst, nor had we much inclination to drink, that desire perhaps being satisfied through the skin. The little sleep we got was in the midst of water, and we constantly awoke with severe cramps and pains in our bones. At noon the sun broke out and revived every one.

“On the 22d our situation was extremely calamitous. We were obliged to take the course of the sea, running right before it, and watching with the utmost care, as the least error in the helm would in a moment have been our destruction. It continued through the day to blow hard, and the foam of the sea kept running over our stern and quarters.

“The misery we suffered this night exceeded the preceding. The sea flew over us with great force, and kept us baling with horror and anxiety. At dawn of day I found every one in a most distressed condition, and I began to fear that another such night would put an end to the lives of several, who seemed no longer able to support their sufferings. I served an allowance of *two* teaspoonfuls of rum; after drinking which, and having wrung our clothes and taken our breakfast of bread and water, we became a little refreshed.

“On the evening of the 24th, the wind moderated and the weather looked much better, which rejoiced all hands, so that they ate their scanty allowance with more

satisfaction than for some time past. The night also was fair; but being always wet with the sea, we suffered much from the cold. I had the pleasure to see a fine morning produce some cheerful countenances; and for the first time during the last fifteen days we experienced comfort from the warmth of the sun. We stripped and hung up our clothes to dry, which were by this time become so threadbare that they could not keep out either wet or cold. In the afternoon we had many birds about us, which are never seen far from land, such as boobies and noddies."

As the sea now began to run fair, and the boat shipped but little water, Lieutenant Bligh took the opportunity to examine into the state of their bread; and it was found that, according to the present mode of living, there was a sufficient quantity remaining for twenty-nine days' allowance, by which time there was every reason to expect they would be able to reach Timor. But as this was still uncertain, and it was possible that, after all, they might be obliged to go to Java, it was determined

to proportion the allowance, so as to make the stock hold out six weeks. "I was apprehensive," he says, "that this would be ill received, and that it would require my utmost resolution to enforce it; for, small as the quantity was which I intended to take away for our future good, yet it might appear to my people like robbing them of life; and some who were less patient than their companions, I expected would very ill brook it. However, on my representing the necessity of guarding against delays that might be occasioned by contrary winds, or other causes, and promising to enlarge upon the allowance as we got on, they cheerfully agreed to my proposal." It was accordingly settled that every person should receive one twenty-fifth part of a pound of bread for breakfast, and the same quantity for dinner as usual, but that the proportion for supper should be discontinued; this arrangement left them forty-three days' consumption.

On the 25th, about noon, some noddies came so near to the boat that one of them was caught by hand. This bird was about

the size of a small pigeon. "I divided it," says Bligh, "with its entrails, into eighteen portions, and by a well-known method at sea, of '*Who shall have this?*'\* it was distributed, with the allowance of bread and water for dinner, and eaten up, bones and all, with salt water for sauce. In the evening, several boobies flying near to us, we had the good fortune to catch one of them. This bird is as large as a duck. They are the most presumptive proof of being near land of any sea-fowl we are acquainted with. I directed the bird to be killed for supper, and the blood to be given to three of the people who were the most distressed for want of food. The body, with the entrails, beak, and feet, I divided into eighteen shares, and with the allowance of bread, which I made a merit of granting, we made

---

\* One person turns his back on the object that is to be divided; another then points separately to the portions, at each of them asking aloud, "*Who shall have this?*" to which the first answers by naming somebody. This impartial method of distribution gives every man an equal chance of the best share. Bligh used to speak of the great amusement the poor people had at the beak and claws falling to his share.

a good supper compared with our usual fare.

“On the next day, the 26th, we caught another booby, so that Providence appeared to be relieving our wants in an extraordinary manner. The people were overjoyed at this addition to their dinner, which was distributed in the same manner as on the preceding evening; giving the blood to those who were the most in want of food. To make the bread a little savoury, most of the men frequently dipped it in salt water, but I generally broke mine into small pieces, and ate it in my allowance of water, out of a cocoa-nut shell, with a spoon; economically avoiding to take too large a piece at a time, so that I was as long at dinner as if it had been a much more plentiful meal.”

The weather was now serene, which, nevertheless, was not without its inconveniences, for, it appears, they began to feel distress of a different kind from that which they had hitherto been accustomed to suffer. The heat of the sun was now so powerful, that several of the people were

seized with a languor and faintness, which made life indifferent. But the little circumstance of catching two boobies in the evening, trifling as it may appear, had the effect of raising their spirits. The stomachs of these birds contained several flying-fish, and small cuttle-fish, all of which were carefully saved to be divided for dinner the next day; which were accordingly divided, with their entrails and the contents of their maws, into eighteen portions, and, as the prize was a very valuable one, it was distributed as before, by calling out, "*Who shall have this?*"—"so that to-day," says the lieutenant, "with the usual allowance of bread at breakfast and at dinner, I was happy to see that every person thought he had feasted." From the appearance of the clouds in the evening, Mr. Bligh had no doubt they were then near the land, and the people amused themselves with conversing on the probability of what they would meet with on it.

Accordingly, at one in the morning of the 28th, the person at the helm heard the sound of breakers. It was the "barrier

reef" which runs along the eastern coast of New Holland, through which it now became the anxious object to discover a passage. Mr. Bligh says this was now become absolutely necessary, without a moment's loss of time. The idea of getting into smooth water and finding refreshments kept up the people's spirits. The sea broke furiously over the reef in every part; within, the water was so smooth and calm that every man already anticipated the heartfelt satisfaction he was about to receive, as soon as he should have passed the barrier. At length a break in the reef was discovered, a quarter of a mile in width, and through this the boat rapidly passed with a strong stream running to the westward, and came immediately into smooth water, and all the past hardships seemed at once to be forgotten.

They now returned thanks to God for his wonderful protection, and with much content took their miserable allowance of the twenty-fifth part of a pound of bread and a quarter of a pint of water for dinner.

The coast now began to show itself very



distinctly, and in the evening they landed on the sandy point of an island, when it was soon discovered there were oysters on the rocks,—it being low water. The party sent out to reconnoitre returned highly rejoiced at having found plenty of oysters and fresh water. By help of a small magnifying glass a fire was made, and among the things that had been thrown into the boat was a tinderbox and a piece of brimstone, so that in future they had the ready means of making a fire. One of the men, too, had been so provident as to bring away with him from the ship a copper-pot; and thus with a mixture of oysters, bread, and pork, a stew was made, of which each person received a full pint. It is remarked that the oysters grew so fast to the rocks, that it was with great difficulty they could be broken off; but they at length discovered it to be the most expeditious way to open them where they were fixed.

The general complaints among the people were a dizziness in the head, great weakness in the joints, and violent tenesmus, but none of them are stated to have

been alarming; and notwithstanding their sufferings from cold and hunger, all of them retained marks of strength.

With oysters and palm-tops stewed together the people now made excellent meals, without consuming any of their bread. In the morning of the 30th, Mr. Bligh saw with great delight a visible alteration in the men for the better, and he sent them away to gather oysters, in order to carry a stock of them to sea, for he determined to put off again that evening. They also procured fresh water, and filled all their vessels to the amount of nearly sixty gallons. On examining the bread, it was found there still remained about thirty-eight days' allowance.

Being now ready for sea, every person was ordered to attend prayers; but just as they were embarking, about twenty naked savages made their appearance, running and hallooing, and beckoning the strangers to come to them; but as each was armed with a spear or lance, it was thought prudent to hold no communication with them. They now proceeded to the northward,

having the continent on their left, and several islands and reefs on their right.

On the 31st they landed on one of these islands, to which was given the name of "Sunday." On this island they obtained oysters, and clams, and dogfish; also a small bean. On the 1st of June they stopped in the midst of some sandy islands, such as are known by the name of *keys*, where they procured a few clams and beans. Here Nelson was taken very ill with a violent heat in his bowels, a loss of sight, great thirst, and an inability to walk. A little wine, which had carefully been saved, with some pieces of bread soaked in it, was given to him in small quantities, and he soon began to recover. The boatswain and carpenter were also ill, and complained of headache and sickness of the stomach: in fact, there were few without complaints.

A party was sent out by night to catch birds; they returned with only twelve noddies, but it is stated, that had it not been for the folly and obstinacy of one of the party, who separated from the others and disturbed the birds, a great many more

might have been taken. The offender was Robert Lamb, who acknowledged, when he got to Java, that he had that night eaten *nine* raw birds, after he had separated from his two companions. The birds, with a few clams, were the whole of the supplies afforded at these small islands.

On the third of June, after passing several keys and islands, and doubling Cape York, the north-easternmost point of New Holland, at eight in the evening the little boat and her brave crew once more launched into the open ocean. "Miserable," says Lieutenant Bligh, "as our situation was in every respect, I was secretly surprised to see that it did not appear to affect any one so strongly as myself; on the contrary, it seemed as if they had embarked on a voyage to Timor in a vessel sufficiently calculated for safety and convenience. So much confidence gave me great pleasure, and I may venture to assert that to this cause our preservation is chiefly to be attributed. I encouraged every one with hopes that eight or ten days would bring us to a land of safety: and, after praying

to God for a continuance of his most gracious protection, I served out an allowance of water for supper, and directed our course to the west-south-west.

“We had been just six days on the coast of New Holland, in the course of which we found oysters, a few clams, some birds, and water. But a benefit probably not less than this was that of being relieved from the fatigue of sitting constantly in the boat, and enjoying good rest at night. These advantages certainly preserved our lives; and small as the supply was, I am very sensible how much it alleviated our distresses. Before this time nature must have sunk under the extremes of hunger and fatigue. Even in our present situation, we were most deplorable objects, but the hopes of a speedy relief kept up our spirits. For my own part, incredible as it may appear, I felt neither extreme hunger nor thirst. My allowance contented me, knowing that I could have no more.”

On the 5th a booby was caught by the hand, the blood of which was divided among three of the men who were weakest.

and the bird kept for next day's dinner; and on the evening of the 6th the allowance for supper was recommenced, according to a promise made when it had been discontinued. On the 7th, after a miserably wet and cold night, nothing more could be afforded than the usual allowance for breakfast; but at dinner each person had the luxury of an ounce of dried clams, which consumed all that remained.

"In the morning of the 10th, after a very comfortless night, there was a visible alteration for the worse," says Mr. Bligh, "in many of the people, which gave me great apprehensions. An extreme weakness, swelled legs, hollow and ghastly countenances, a more than common inclination to sleep, with an apparent debility of understanding, seemed to me the melancholy presages of an approaching dissolution. The surgeon and Lebogue, in particular, were most miserable objects. I occasionally gave them a few teaspoonfuls of wine out of the little that remained, which greatly assisted them. The hopes of being able to accomplish the voyage

was our principal support. The boatswain very innocently told me that he really thought I looked worse than any in the boat. The simplicity with which he uttered such an opinion amused me, and I returned him a better compliment."

On the 11th, Lieutenant Bligh announced to his wretched companions that he had no doubt they had now passed the meridian of the eastern part of Timor, a piece of intelligence that diffused universal joy and satisfaction. Accordingly, at three in the morning of the following day Timor was discovered at the distance only of two leagues from the shore.

"It is not possible for me," says this experienced navigator, "to describe the pleasure which the blessing of the sight of this land diffused among us. It appeared scarcely credible to ourselves, that in an open boat, and so poorly provided, we should have been able to reach the coast of Timor in forty-one days after leaving Tofoa, having in that time run by our log a distance of three thousand six hundred and eighteen nautical miles; and that,

notwithstanding our extreme distress, no one should have perished in the voyage."

On the 13th they found land in a small sandy bay near the island of Roti, where the natives, who were of a dark tawny colour, received them courteously, bringing them a few pieces of dried turtle, and some ears of Indian corn, which were very acceptable. They offered to bring other refreshments; but Bligh, who acknowledged their kindness, and the "European politeness" of some of them, determined to push on. At ten o'clock that night, he issued for supper a double allowance of bread, and a little wine to each person; and at one the next morning, which was Sunday, "after the most sweet and happy sleep that ever men enjoyed," they weighed anchor, and continued along the east shore. Then, after rowing and resting alternately, for some distance, they were, on the 14th June, regaled with sounds and sights dear to every seaman, but almost transporting to those who had so long been strangers to all that was joyous in their profession. The report of



two cannons that were fired, gave new life to all, and soon after they discovered two square-rigged vessels, and a cutter, at anchor to the eastward. Out of a bundle of signal flags, which the boatswain had thrown into the launch before they left the *Bounty*, they had made a small jack, which was hoisted in the main shrouds, as a signal of distress; "for," says Bligh, "I did not think proper to land without leave."

Soon after daybreak, at the Dutch settlement of Coupang, a soldier hailed them to land, and what was their delight, in making their way through a crowd of natives, who stood gazing upon their emaciated forms with wonder and pity, to behold an ENGLISH SAILOR! This man, who belonged to one of the vessels in the road, at once told Bligh that his captain was the second person in the town of Coupang. To him the party were conducted; and certainly Captain Spikerman was a living example of the truth of the good old proverb, "A friend in need is a friend indeed." He received them into his house, took care

of them, and introduced them to the governor. They met with the most friendly and hospitable treatment from the governor, Mr. Adrian Van Este, though he was in a very ill state of health. He sent a message, regretting that his illness prevented his befriending them in person; but he committed them to the care of Mr. Wanjon, his son-in-law; who, with other leading persons at Coupang, rendered their situation comfortable. The picture given of the landing displays in a striking manner the sad condition of these afflicted creatures, and the feelings excited in their preservers. "Our bodies were nothing but skin and bones; our limbs were full of sores, and we were clothed in rags. In this condition, with the tears of joy and gratitude flowing down our cheeks, the people of Timor beheld us with a mixture of horror, surprise, and pity."

"When," continues the commander, "I reflect how providentially our lives were saved at Tofoa, by the Indians delaying their attack; and that, with scarcely any thing to support life, we crossed a sea of

more than twelve hundred leagues, without shelter from the inclemency of the weather; when I reflect that in an open boat, with so much stormy weather, we escaped foundering, that not any of us were taken off by disease, that we had the great good fortune to pass the unfriendly natives of other countries without accident, and at last to meet with the most friendly and best of people to relieve our distresses—I say, when I reflect on all these wonderful escapes, the remembrance of such great mercies enables me to bear with resignation and cheerfulness the failure of an expedition, the success of which I had so much at heart, and which was frustrated at a time when I was congratulating myself on the fairest prospect of being able to complete it in a manner that would fully have answered the intention of his majesty and the humane promoters of so benevolent a plan.”

Having recruited their strength by a residence of two months among the friendly inhabitants of Coupang, they proceeded

to the westward on the 20th August in a small schooner, which was purchased and armed for the purpose, and arrived on the 1st October in Batavia Road, where Mr. Bligh embarked in a Dutch packet, and was landed on the Isle of Wight on the 14th of March, 1790. The rest of the people had passages provided for them in ships of the Dutch East India Company, then about to sail for Europe. All of them, however, did not survive to reach England. Nelson, the botanist, died at Coupang; Mr. Elphinstone, master's mate, Peter Linkletter and Thomas Hall, seamen, died at Batavia; Robert Lamb, seaman, (the booby-eater,) died on the passage; and Mr. Ledward, the surgeon, was left behind, and not afterward heard of. These six, with John Norton, who was stoned to death, left twelve of the nineteen forced by the mutineers into the launch, to survive the difficulties and dangers of this unparalleled voyage, and to revisit their native country.

One cannot read this narrative without

admiration of the manner in which Captain Bligh contended with dangers and hardships so appalling, and of the firmness, wisdom, and disinterestedness with which he husbanded their resources so as to make the food of five days last for fifty. Not only did his situation demand nautical skill, but great prudence in avoiding danger from savage islanders, and resisting the entreaties of his men for increased allowances of food. Having obtained a solemn agreement that the settled allowance should not be swerved from, he never suffered them to move him by threats or otherwise from this compact. Thus eighteen lives were preserved in a passage of 3618 miles through a trackless ocean!

While we admire his conduct at this trying period, we cannot but lament that a man possessed of so many noble qualities should have so yielded to the outbreaks of temper when in authority as to be indirectly the occasion of this train of crime and misery. May the youthful readers of this history, while they emulate the

resolution, the prudence, and the disinterestedness of Captain Bligh in his perilous boat-voyage, shun the sin that led to so much suffering—the sin of an unrestrained temper venting itself in oaths and abuse!

## CHAPTER III.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IN CONSEQUENCE OF THE MUTINY—  
CHURCHILL AND THOMPSON—WRECK OF THE PANDORA—  
PETER HEYWOOD AND HIS FAMILY—LETTERS FROM NESSY  
HEYWOOD AND OTHERS—PETER HEYWOOD'S NARRATIVE—  
TRIAL OF THE MUTINEERS—THE KING'S PARDON—HO-  
NOURABLE CAREER OF CAPTAIN HEYWOOD.

LIEUTENANT BLIGH, on his return to England in 1790, published an interesting narrative of the mutiny, and the hardships which he had endured until his landing at Timor. This excited much sympathy in his favour, and no little indignation against the mutineers.

As soon as the English government were made acquainted with the atrocious act of mutiny and piracy of which Christian and his party had been guilty, they sent out the Pandora frigate, under Captain Edward Edwards, with orders to visit the Society and Friendly Islands, and use

every endeavour to seize and bring home the offenders. On the arrival of that officer at Matavai Bay, Tahiti, on the 23d of March, 1791, just eighteen months after the *Bounty's* last departure from the island, three of the men, who had remained there nearly two years, namely, J. Coleman, P. Heywood, and G. Stewart, came on board the *Pandora*, and surrendered themselves to the law. They were received with all the sternness of offended justice, and instantly put in irons. The captain succeeded in taking eleven others at Tahiti, who were also carefully ironed.

Two of the mutineers, Churchill and Thompson, who had landed with the rest at Tahiti, were no longer in existence. The history of these two men has a dreadful kind of interest belonging to it. Within a short period of their quitting the *Bounty*, one of them, the ship's corporal, had become a king, and both had been murdered! Churchill, after residing a short time at Matavai, accepted an invitation to live with Waheeadooa, who was sovereign of Teiarraboo when Captain



Cook last visited that place. Thompson accompanied Churchill thither; but they very soon disagreed. Waheeadooa dying without children, Churchill, who had been his *toyo*, or chief friend, succeeded to his dignity and property, according to the established custom of the country. Thompson, envious of Churchill's honours, and angry at some fancied insult, took an opportunity of shooting him. The natives rose to punish the murderer of their new sovereign, and stoned him to death. This wicked man had before murdered a man and a child, but had then escaped punishment, in consequence of an error as to his person. Peter Heywood (midshipman) had been mistaken for him, and was on the point of being destroyed with an axe, when an old chief, who knew him, interposed and saved his life.

Captain Edwards, after many inquiries, could hear nothing of the Bounty, nor of the nine remaining mutineers. But he had on board fourteen prisoners, confined in a narrow space, which was called, "Pandora's Box." It was built on the

after part of the quarter-deck, and was only eleven feet in length. The voyage homeward was very disastrous, the ship being wrecked on her return on a coral reef, off the coast of New Holland, on the 29th of August, 1791, and the crew compelled to navigate 1000 miles in open boats.

Just before the Pandora went down, Heywood and some other prisoners were able to disengage their hands and feet from the irons with which they had been fastened; the key of the chains having been providentially dropped through the scuttle into their prison, which was, at the time, fast filling with water. The master-at-arms, who, whether by design or accident, had dropped the key, was drowned, with thirty of the ship's company, and four of the unhappy prisoners. These four sank in their irons!

Young Heywood seized a plank, and was swimming toward a small sandy quay about three miles off, when a boat took him up, and conveyed him thither. The survivors assembled on the sandy quay, which was only ninety yards long by sixty

yards wide. There, under the meridian, and then vertical, sun, the only shelter the prisoners had was to bury themselves up to their neck in the burning sand. They were on this miserable spot for nineteen days. Captain Edwards had tents, made from the boat sails, erected for himself and his people. The prisoners petitioned him for an old sail, part of the wreck, which was lying useless: but it was refused. He seems to have been needlessly severe and harsh to men who had not yet been declared guilty, and who had an undoubted right to the common offices of humanity and respect. But, alas! there are those in every age who can find no pleasure in showing kindness to the unfortunate.

The only article saved by Heywood, on his escape from the wreck, was a Common Prayer Book, which, in swimming from the Pandora, he held between his teeth.

Peter Heywood had left a happy home in the Isle of Man, in August, 1787, when only fourteen years old, for his first voy-

age in the *Bounty*, and was but a youth of between fifteen and sixteen on the occasion of the mutiny. He had now been away from his father, mother, brothers, and sisters, for five years. About the latter end of March, 1790, his mother heard with grief and consternation of the mutiny which had taken place on board the *Bounty*. Her husband had died two months previous, and had thus been spared a severe domestic trial. The dreadful intelligence which reached her was aggravated by many malignant additions to the facts. She had been cruelly informed that her son, as a ringleader of the mutiny, had gone armed into Mr. Bligh's cabin. She did not, indeed, believe the account; but though she knew her son's general good qualities, she feared the worst results from his having been mixed up with such a transaction.

His sister, Nussy, (Hester,) uncertain whether he was alive or dead, but full of ardent love for a dear brother whom she would not believe guilty of an atrocious crime, thus writes to him:—

“Isle of Man, 2d June, 1792.

“In a situation of mind only rendered supportable by the long and painful state of misery and suspense we have suffered on his account, how shall I address my dear, my fondly beloved brother!—how describe the anguish we have felt at the idea of this long and painful separation, rendered still more distressing by the terrible circumstances attending it! Oh! my ever dearest boy, when I look back to that dreadful moment which brought us the fatal intelligence that you had remained in the *Bounty* after Mr. Bligh had quitted her, and were looked upon by him as a *mutineer*!—when I contrast that day of horror with my present hopes of again beholding you, such as my most sanguine wishes could expect, I know not which is the most predominant sensation,—pity, compassion, and terror for your sufferings, or joy and satisfaction at the prospect of their being near a termination, and of once more embracing the dearest object of our affections.

“I will not ask you, my beloved bro-

ther, whether you are innocent of the dreadful crime of mutiny; if the transactions of that day were as Mr. Bligh has represented them, such is my conviction of your worth and honour that I will, without hesitation, stake my life on your innocence. If, on the contrary, you were concerned in such a conspiracy against your commander, I shall be as firmly persuaded *his* conduct was the occasion of it; out, alas! could any occasion justify so atrocious an attempt to destroy a number of our fellow-creatures? No, my ever dearest brother, nothing but conviction from your own mouth can possibly persuade me that you would commit an action in the smallest degree inconsistent with honour and duty; and the circumstance of your having swam off to the Pandora on her arrival at Tahiti, (which filled us with joy to which no words can do justice,) is sufficient to convince all who know you, that you certainly stayed behind either by force or from views of preservation.

“How strange does it seem to me that

I am now engaged in the delightful task of writing to you. Alas! my beloved brother, two years ago I never expected again to enjoy such a felicity, and even yet I am in the most painful uncertainty whether you are alive. Gracious God, grant that we may be at length blessed by your return! But, alas! the Pandora's people have been long expected, and are not even yet arrived. Should any accident have happened, after all the miseries you have already suffered, the poor gleam of hope with which we have been lately indulged will render our situation ten thousand times more insupportable than if time had inured us to your loss. Let me conjure you, my dearest Peter, to write to us the very first moment—do not lose a post—'tis of no consequence how short your letter may be, if it only inform us you are well.

“We are at present making all possible interest with every friend and connection we have, to insure you a sufficient support and protection at your approaching trial; for a trial you must unavoidably undergo, in order to convince the world

of that innocence which those who know you will not for a moment doubt; but, alas! while circumstances are against you, the generality of mankind will judge severely. Bligh's representations to the Admiralty are, I am told, very unfavourable; and hitherto the tide of public opinion has been greatly in his favour. My mamma is at present well, considering the distress she has suffered since you left us; for, my dearest brother, we have experienced a complicated scene of misery from a variety of causes, which, however, when compared with the sorrow we felt on your account, was trifling and insignificant.

“Farewell, my most beloved brother! God grant this may soon be put into your hands! Perhaps at this moment you are arrived in England, and I may soon have the dear delight of again beholding you. My mamma, brothers, and sisters join with me in every sentiment of love and tenderness. Write to us immediately, my ever-loved Peter, and may the Almighty preserve you until you bless with your presence your fondly affectionate family, and



particularly your unalterably faithful friend  
and sister,

“NESSY HEYWOOD.”

Among the many anxious friends and family connections of the Heywoods was Commodore Pasley, to whom this affectionate young lady addressed herself on the melancholy occasion; and the following is the reply she received from this officer:

“Sheerness, June 8th, 1792.

“Would to God, my dearest Nussy, that I could rejoice with you on the early prospect of your brother’s arrival in England. One division of the Pandora’s people has arrived, and now on board the Vengeance, (my ship.) Captain Edwards, with the remainder, and all the prisoners late of the Bounty, in number ten, (four having been drowned on the loss of that ship,) are daily expected. They have been most rigorously and closely confined since taken, and will continue so, no doubt, till Bligh’s arrival. You have no chance of seeing him, for no bail can be offered. Your intelligence of his swimming off on the Pan-

dora's arrival is not well founded : a man of the name of Coleman swam off ere she anchored,—your brother and Mr. Stewart the next day. This last youth, when the Pandora was lost, refused to allow his irons to be taken off to save his life.

“I cannot conceal it from you, my dearest Nussy, neither is it proper I should,—your brother appears by all accounts to be the greatest culprit of all, Christian alone excepted. Every exertion, you may rest assured, I shall use to save his life; but on trial I have no hope of his not being condemned. Three of the ten who are expected are mentioned in Bligh's narrative as men detained against their inclination. Would to God that your brother had been one of that number! I will not distress you more by enlarging on this subject; as intelligence arises on their arrival, you shall be made acquainted. Adieu, my dearest Nussy. Present my affectionate remembrances to your mother and sisters, and believe me always, with the warmest affection,

“Your uncle,

“THOS. PASLEY.”

Every reader will sympathize in the feeling displayed in her reply.

“Isle of Man, 22d June, 1792.

“Harassed by the most torturing suspense, and miserably wretched as I have been, my dearest uncle, since the receipt of your last, conceive, if it is possible, the heartfelt joy and satisfaction we experienced yesterday morning, when, on the arrival of the packet, the dear delightful letter from our beloved Peter (a copy of which I send you enclosed) was brought to us. Surely, my excellent friend, you will agree with me in thinking there could not be a stronger proof of his innocence and worth, and that it must prejudice every person who reads it most powerfully in his favour. Such a letter, in less distressful circumstances than those in which he writes, would, I am persuaded, reflect honour on the pen of a person much older than my poor brother. But when we consider his extreme youth, (only sixteen at the time of the mutiny, and now but nine-

teen,) his fortitude, patience, and manly resignation under the pressure of sufferings and misfortunes almost unheard of, and scarcely to be supported at any age, without the assistance of that which seems to be my dear brother's greatest comfort,—a quiet conscience, and a thorough conviction of his own innocence,—when I add, at the same time, with real pleasure and satisfaction, that his relation corresponds in many particulars with the accounts we have hitherto heard of the fatal mutiny,—*and when I also add, with pride and delight, that my beloved Peter never was known to breathe a syllable inconsistent with truth and honour*;—when these circumstances, my dear uncle, are all united, what man on earth can doubt of the innocence which could dictate such a letter? In short, let it speak for him. The perusal of his artless and pathetic story will, I am persuaded, be a stronger recommendation in his favour than any thing I can urge.

“I need not tire your patience, my ever-loved uncle, by dwelling longer on this

subject, (the dearest and most interesting on earth to my heart;) let me conjure you only, my kind friend, to read it, and consider the innocence and defenceless situation of its unfortunate author, which calls for, and I am sure deserves, all the pity and assistance his friends can afford him, and which, I am sure also, the goodness and benevolence of your heart will prompt you to exert in his behalf. It is perfectly unnecessary for me to add, after the anxiety I feel, and cannot but express, that no benefit conferred upon myself will be acknowledged with half the gratitude I must ever feel for the smallest instance of kindness shown to my beloved Peter. Farewell, my dearest uncle. With the firmest reliance on your kind and generous promises, I am ever, with the truest gratitude and sincerity,

“Your most affectionate niece,

“NESSY HEYWOOD.”

We now give the letter from young Heywood alluded to by his sister.

“Batavia, November 20th, 1791.

“My ever-honoured and dearest Mother,

“At length the time has arrived when you are once more to hear from your ill-fated son, whose conduct at the capture of the ship has, I fear, from what has since happened to me, been grossly misrepresented to you by Lieutenant Bligh, who, not knowing the real cause of my remaining on board, naturally suspected me to be a coadjutor in the mutiny; but I never, to my knowledge, while under his command, behaved myself in a manner unbecoming the station I occupied, nor so much as even entertained a thought derogatory to his honour, so as to give him the least grounds for entertaining an opinion of me so ungenerous and undeserved. Oh! my dearest mother, I hope you have not so easily credited such an account of me; do but let me vindicate my conduct, and declare to you the true cause of my remaining in the ship. I shall then give you a short and cursory account of what has happened to me since; but I am afraid to say a hundredth part of what I have got in store,

for I am not allowed the use of writing materials, so that this is done by stealth; but if it should ever come to your hands, it will, I hope, have the desired effect of removing your uneasiness on my account, when I assure you, before the face of God, of my innocence of what is laid to my charge. How I came to remain on board was thus:

“The morning the ship was taken, it being my watch below, happening to awake just after daylight, and looking out of my hammock, I saw a man sitting upon the arm-chest in the main hatchway, with a drawn cutlass in his hand, the reason of which I could not divine; so I got out of bed and inquired of him what was the cause of it. He told me that Mr. Christian, assisted by some of the ship's company, had seized the captain and put him in confinement; had taken the command of the ship, and meant to carry Bligh home a prisoner, in order to try him by court-martial for his long tyrannical and oppressive conduct to his people. I was quite thunderstruck; and, hurrying into my berth again, told

one of my messmates, whom I awakened out of his sleep, what had happened. Then dressing myself, I went up the fore-hatchway, and saw what he had told me was but too true; and again I asked some of the people who were under arms what was going to be done with the captain, who was then on the larboard side of the quarter-deck, with his hands tied behind his back, and Mr. Christian alongside him with a pistol and drawn bayonet. I now heard a very different story, and that the captain was to be sent ashore to Tofoa in the launch, and that those who would not join Mr. Christian might either accompany the captain, or would be taken in irons to Tahiti and left there. The relation of two stories so different left me unable to judge which could be the true one; but, seeing them hoisting the boats out, it seemed to prove the latter.

“In this trying situation, young and inexperienced as I was, and without an adviser, (every person being, as it were, infatuated, and not knowing what to do,) I remained for a while a silent spectator of



what was going on; and after revolving the matter in my mind, I determined to choose what I thought the less of two evils, and stay by the ship; for I had no doubt that those who went on shore in the launch would be put to death by the savage natives, whereas the Tahitians being a humane and generous race, one might have a hope of being kindly received, and remain there until the arrival of some ship, which seemed, to silly me, the most consistent with reason and rectitude.

“While this resolution possessed my mind, at the same time lending my assistance to hoist out the boats, the hurry and confusion affairs were in, and thinking my intention just, I never thought of going to Mr. Bligh for advice; besides, what confirmed me in it was, my seeing two experienced officers, when ordered into the boat by Mr. Christian, desire his permission to remain in the ship, (one of whom my own messmate, Mr. Hayward,) and I being assisting to clear the launch of yams, he asked me what I intended to do; I told him, to remain in the ship. Now this an-

swer, I imagine, he has told Mr. Bligh I made to him; from which, together with my not speaking to him that morning, his suspicions of me have arisen, construing my conduct into what is foreign to my nature.

“Thus, my dearest mother, it was all owing to my youth and unadvised inexperience, but has been interpreted into villany and disregard of my country’s laws. And now, after what I have asserted, I may once more retrieve my injured reputation, be again reinstated in the affection and favour of the most tender of mothers, and be still considered as her ever dutiful son.

“I was not undeceived in my erroneous decision till too late, which was after the captain was in the launch.

“At the latter end of May we got to an island to the southward of Tahiti, called Tooboui, where they intended to make a settlement; but, finding no stock there of any kind, they agreed to go to Tahiti, and, after procuring hogs and fowls, to return to Tooboui and remain. So, on the 6th

June, we arrived at Tahiti, where I was in hopes I might find an opportunity of running away and remaining on shore, but I could not effect it, as there was always too good a look-out kept to prevent any such steps being taken. And besides they had all sworn that should any one make his escape, they would force the natives to restore him, and would then shoot him as an example to the rest; well knowing, that any one by remaining there might be the means (should a ship arrive) of discovering their intended place of abode. Finding it therefore impracticable, I saw no other alternative but to rest as content as possible and return to Tooboui, and there wait till the masts of the Bounty should be taken out, and then take the boat which might carry me to Tahiti, and disable those remaining from pursuit. But Providence so ordered it, that we had no occasion to try our fortune at such a hazard, for, upon returning there and remaining till the latter end of August, in which time a fort was almost built, but nothing could be effected; and as the natives could not be brought to

friendly terms, and we had many skirmishes, and narrow escapes from being cut off by them, and, what was still worse, internal broils and discontent,—these things determined part of the people to leave the island and go to Tahiti, which was carried by a majority of votes.

“This being carried into execution on the 22d September, and having anchored in Matavai Bay, the next morning my messmate (Mr. Stewart) and I went on shore, to the house of an old landed proprietor, our former friend; and being now set free from a lawless crew, determined to remain as much apart from them as possible, and wait patiently for the arrival of a ship. Fourteen more of the *Bounty*’s people came likewise on shore, and Mr. Christian and eight men went away with the ship, but God knows whither. While we remained here we were treated by our kind and friendly natives with a generosity and humanity almost unparalleled, and such as we could hardly have expected from the most civilized people.

“To be brief—having remained here till

the latter end of March, 1791, on the 26th of that month his majesty's ship Pandora arrived, and had scarcely anchored, when my messmate and I went on board and made ourselves known; and having learned from one of the natives who had been off in a canoe, that our former messmate Mr. Hayward, now promoted to the rank of lieutenant, was on board, we asked for him, supposing he might prove the assertions of our innocence. But he (like all worldlings when raised a little in life) received us very coolly, and pretended ignorance of our affairs; yet formerly, he and I were bound in brotherly love and friendship. Appearances being so much against us, we were ordered to be put in irons, and looked upon as *piratical villains*. A rebuff so severe as this was, to a person unused to troubles, would perhaps have been insupportable; but to me, who had now been long inured to the frowns of fortune, and feeling myself supported by an inward consciousness of not deserving it, it was received with the greatest compo-

sure, and a full determination to bear it with patience.

“My sufferings, however, I have not power to describe; but though they are great, yet I thank God for enabling me to bear them without repining. I endeavour to qualify my affliction with these three considerations: first, my innocence not deserving them; secondly, that they cannot last long; and thirdly, that the change may be for the better. The first improves my hopes, the second my patience, and the third my courage. I am young in years, but old in what the world calls adversity; and it has had such an effect as to make me consider it the most beneficial incident that could have occurred at my age. It has made me acquainted with three things which are little known, and as little believed by any but those who have felt their effects: first, the villany and censoriousness of mankind; secondly, the futility of all human hopes; and thirdly, the happiness of being content in whatever station it may please Providence to place me.

“As they will no doubt proceed to the

greatest lengths against me, I being the only surviving officer, and they most inclined to believe a prior story, all that can be said to confute it will probably be looked upon as mere falsity and invention. Should that be my unhappy case, and they resolve upon my destruction as an example to futurity, may God enable me to bear my fate with the fortitude of a man, conscious that misfortune, not any misconduct, is the cause, and that the Almighty can attest my innocence. Yet why should I despond? I have, I hope, still a friend in that Providence which hath preserved me amid many greater dangers, and upon whom alone I now depend for safety. God will always protect those who deserve it. These are the sole considerations which have enabled me to make myself easy and content under my past misfortunes.\*

“Twelve more of the people who were

---

\* A very brief attendance upon a good *Sunday School* would have corrected many of the erroneous views entertained and expressed by the author of this narrative, and we trust our youthful readers will be able to correct for themselves his unscriptural sentiments.—AM. ED

at Tahiti having delivered themselves up there was a sort of prison built on the after-part of the quarter-deck, into which we were all put in close confinement, with both legs and both hands in irons, and were treated with great rigour, not being allowed ever to get out of this den; and, being obliged to eat, drink, and sleep here, you may form some idea of the disagreeable situation I must have been in, unable as I was to help myself, being deprived of the use of both my legs and my hands.

“On the 9th of May we left Tahiti, and proceeded to the Friendly Islands, and about the beginning of August got in among the reefs of New Holland, to endeavour to discover a passage through them; but it was not effected, for the Pandora, as if devoted by Heaven to destruction, was driven by a current upon the patch of a reef. There being a heavy surf, she was soon almost bulged to pieces; but having thrown all the guns on one side overboard, and the tide flowing at the same time, she beat over the reef into a basin, and brought up in fourteen or fifteen fathoms; but she



was so much damaged while on the reef, that imagining she would go to pieces every moment, we had contrived to wrench ourselves out of our irons, and applied to the captain to have mercy on us, and suffer us to take our chance for the preservation of our lives; but it was all in vain—he was even so inhuman as to order us all to be put in irons again, though the ship was expected to go down every moment.

“In this miserable situation, with an expected death before our eyes, without the least hope of relief, and in the most trying state of suspense, we spent the night, the ship being by the hand of Providence kept up till the morning. The boats by this time had all been prepared; and as the captain and officers were coming upon the poop or roof of our prison, to abandon the ship, the water being then up to the combings of the hatchways, we again implored his mercy; upon which he sent the corporal and an armourer down to let some of us out of irons, but three only were suffered to go up, and the scuttle being then clapped on, and the master-at-

arms upon it, the armourer had only time to let two persons out of irons, the rest, except three, letting themselves out; two of these three went down with them on their hands, and the third was picked up. She now began to keel over to port so very much, that the master-at-arms, sliding overboard, and leaving the scuttle vacant, we all tried to get up, and I was the last out but three. The water was then pouring in at the bulk-head scuttles, yet I succeeded in getting out, and was scarcely in the sea when I could see nothing above it but the cross-trees, and nothing around me but a scene of the greatest distress. I took a plank (being stark naked) and swam toward an island about three miles off, but was picked up on my passage by one of the boats. When we got ashore to the small sandy key, we found there were thirty-four men drowned, four of whom were prisoners, and among these was my unfortunate messmate, (Mr. Stewart;) ten of us, and eighty-nine of the Pandora's crew, were saved.

“When a survey was made of what pro-

visions had been saved, they were found to consist of two or three bags of bread, two or three beakers of water, and a little wine; so we subsisted three days upon two wine-glasses of water, and two ounces of bread per day. On the 1st September we left the island, and on the 16th arrived at Coupang in the island of Timor, having been on short allowance eighteen days. We were put in confinement in the castle, where we remained till October, and on the 5th of that month were sent on board a Dutch ship bound for Batavia.

“Though I have been eight months in close confinement in a hot climate, I have kept my health in a most surprising manner, without the least indisposition, and am still perfectly well in every respect, in mind as well as in body; but without a friend, and only a shirt and pair of trousers to put on, and carry me home. Yet with all this I have a contented mind, entirely resigned to the will of Providence.”

In a subsequent letter to his sister he says, “I send you two little sketches of the manner in which his majesty’s

ship Pandora went down on the 29th August, and of the appearance which we who survived made on the small sandy key within the reef, about ninety yards long and sixty broad, in all ninety-nine souls. Here we remained three days, subsisting on a single wine-glass of wine or water, and two ounces of bread a day, with no shelter from the meridian and then vertical sun. Captain Edwards had tents erected for himself and his people, and we prisoners petitioned him for an old sail which was lying useless, part of the wreck, but he refused it; and the only shelter we had was to bury ourselves up to the neck in the burning sand, which scorched the skin entirely off our bodies, for we were entirely naked, and we appeared as if dipped in large tubs of boiling water. We were nineteen days in the same miserable situation before we landed at Coupang. I was in the ship, in irons, hands and feet, much longer than till the position you now see her in, the poop alone being above water, (and that knee-deep,) when a kind Providence assisted

me to get out of irons and escape from her."

The treatment of these unhappy men was almost as bad at Batavia as in the Pandora, being closely confined in irons in the castle, and fed on very bad provisions; and the hardships they endured on their passage to England, in Dutch ships, were very severe, having, as he says, slept on nothing but hard boards or wet canvas, without any bed, for seventeen months, always subsisting on short allowance of execrable provisions, and without any clothes for some time, except such as the charity of two young men in the ship supplied him with. He had, during his confinement at Batavia, learned to make straw hats, and finished several with both his hands in fetters, which he sold for half-a-crown apiece; and with the produce of these he procured a suit of coarse clothes, in which, with a cheerful and light heart, notwithstanding all his sufferings, he arrived at Portsmouth.

On the second day after the arrival of the Gorgon at Spithead the prisoners were

transferred to the Hector, commanded by Captain Montague, where they were treated with the greatest humanity, and every indulgence allowed that could with propriety be extended to men in their unhappy situation, until the period when they were to be arraigned before the competent authority, and put on their trial for mutiny and piracy, which did not take place until the month of September.

In this period of anxious and awful suspense, a most interesting correspondence was carried on between this unfortunate youth and his numerous friends, which exhibits the character of himself and the whole family in the most amiable and affectionate colours, and in a more particular manner, of that faithful creature, his sister Nussy, who, in one of her letters, accounts for the peculiar warmth of her attachment and expressions by their being nearly of the same age, and engaged in the same pursuits, whether of study or amusement, in their juvenile years. The poor mother, on hearing of his arrival, thus addresses her unfortunate son:—

“Isle of Man, June 29th, 1792.

“Oh! my ever dearly-beloved and long-lost son, with what anxiety have I waited for this period! I have counted the days, hours, and even minutes since I first heard of the horrid and unfortunate mutiny which has so long deprived me of my dearest boy: but now the happy time is come when, though I cannot have the unspeakable pleasure of seeing and embracing you, yet I hope we may be allowed to correspond; surely there can be nothing improper in a liberty of this sort between an affectionate mother and her dutiful and beloved son, who, I am perfectly convinced, was never guilty of the crime he has been suspected of by those who did not know his worth and truth. I have not the least doubt but that the all-gracious God, who of his good providence has protected you so long, and brought you safe through so many dangers and difficulties, will still protect you, and at your trial make your innocence appear as clear as the light.”

His sister, on the same day, writes—

“My dearest and most beloved bro-

ther,—Thanks to that Almighty Providence which has so miraculously preserved you, your fond, anxious, and, till now, miserable Nussy, is at last permitted to address the object of her tenderest affection in England! Oh! what have we felt on your account! Yet how small, how trifling was the misery of our situation when compared with the horror of yours! Let me now, however, with confidence hope that the God of all mercies has not so long protected you in vain. I firmly trust that Providence will at length restore you to those dear and affectionate friends, who can know no happiness until they are blessed with your loved society. I shall soon be with you; I have written to Mr. Heywood (your and our excellent friend and protector) for his permission to go to you immediately, which my uncle Heywood, without first obtaining it, would not allow, fearing, lest any precipitate step might injure you at present; and I only wait the arrival of his next letter to fly into your arms. Oh! my best beloved Peter, how I anticipate the rapture of



that moment!—for alas! I have no joy, no happiness, but in your beloved society, and no hopes, no fears, no wishes, but for you.”

Mr. Heywood's sisters all address their unfortunate brother in the same affectionate, but less impassioned strain; and a little trait of good feeling is mentioned, on the part of an old female servant, that shows what a happy and attached family the Heywoods were, previous to the melancholy affair in which Peter became entangled. Mrs. Heywood says, “My good honest Birket is very well, and says your safe return has made her more happy than she has been for these two-and-forty years she has been in our family.” And Miss Nussy tells him, “Poor Birket, the most faithful and worthiest of servants, desires me to tell you that she almost dies with joy at the thought of your safe arrival in England.”

Heywood wrote a letter to his sisters, dated July 12, 1792, beginning, “My beloved sisters all:”—

In this he expresses his delight at hear-

ing from them all, and alludes to a plan which his sister Nussy had projected for a visit to him on board the Hector:—  
“Oh, my Nussy, it grieves me to think I must be under the necessity, however heart-breaking to myself, of desiring you will relinquish your most affectionate design of coming to see me. It is too long and tedious a journey; and even on your arrival you would not be allowed the wished-for happiness, both to you and myself, of seeing, much less conversing with your unfortunate brother. The rules of the service are so strict that prisoners are not permitted to have any communication with female relations.”

The following is an answer from his eldest sister:—

MARY HEYWOOD TO PETER HEYWOOD.

“Isle of Man, July 17, 1792.

“How can I sufficiently thank you, my dearest and most beloved boy, for your kind attention in remembering me, when I should have been the first to welcome you on your arrival in England. It is as

impossible for you to conceive, as for me to express, the pleasure and satisfaction we felt on receipt of your several letters. James had your favour by the same packet which brought mine. What infinite obligations are we under, my dearest Peter, to Mr. Heywood, and his amiable daughter, Mrs. Bertie. To her kind and maternal attention you owe the re-establishment of your precious health, that blessing without which there is no real enjoyment in this life. And let it be, my dear brother, our future study to render ourselves deserving of, though it will be impossible to repay, such friendship. God grant your innocence may be, by your acquittal, speedily known to the world. I never for a moment doubted it; nor, if it was in the smallest degree suspected would you, my dearest boy, be supported by so many friends, who, I am convinced, will do every thing in their power for you. How anxiously do we all wish for the time when we shall have the inexpressible happiness of embracing you in the Isle of Man! May that period be very, very

near ; and may that Almighty Providence which has hitherto preserved you, watch over and protect you at that awful moment of trial ! My mamma, brothers and sisters, join in most affectionate love and ardent wishes for your safety. That you, my beloved boy, may have a speedy end to all your difficulties and distresses, and be again restored to your family, is the unceasing prayer of your most sincere friend and affectionate sister,

“ MARY HEYWOOD.”

The last letter from his beloved Nussy previous to the awful event thus concludes :—“ May that Almighty Providence whose tender care has hitherto preserved you be still your powerful protector ! May he instil into the hearts of your judges every sentiment of justice, generosity, and compassion ! May hope, innocence, and integrity be your firm support ! And liberty, glory, and honour your just reward ! May all good angels guard you from even the appearance of danger ! And may you at length be restored to us, the

delight, the pride of your friends, and the sole happiness and felicity of that fond heart which animates the bosom of my dear Peter's most faithful and truly affectionate sister,  
N. H."

The court called for the trial of the mutineers met on board of the ship *Duke*, at Portsmouth, on the 12th of September, 1792, and was occupied until the 18th in listening to the evidence given by the officers and seamen who had accompanied Captain Bligh in the boat. It was presided over by Vice-Admiral Lord Hood of the British navy, and was composed of officers of high standing and much experience. The articles of war, under which the mutineers were tried, declares that "if any person in or belonging to the fleet shall make, or endeavour to make, any mutinous assembly, upon any pretence whatever, every person offending herein, and being convicted thereof by the sentence of the court-martial, shall suffer death."

It clearly appeared at the trial of Heywood and his nine fellow-prisoners, that

some of their number had remained in the *Bounty* against their will, and were perfectly free of blame. These were acquitted. Six, however, including Heywood, were found guilty, and condemned to suffer death by being hanged by the neck on board of a man-of-war. The court earnestly recommended him and one other to the mercy of the king. His conviction was not because he was believed to have taken an active part in the mutiny, but because *he failed to take an active part against it*. But when we consider that he was but sixteen years of age, and entirely without experience, we do not wonder that, suddenly awaked from sleep in the confusion and terror of such a scene, he should have hesitated as to what course he ought to take, whether to remain in the ship or to add to the danger of his commander by sinking his boat still nearer to the water's edge.

Two days afterward the youthful convict wrote the following letter to the Rev. Dr. Scott, of the Isle of Man, who was a friend of the Heywood family:—

PETER HEYWOOD TO DR. SCOTT.

“Hector, Sept. 20, 1792.

“HONOURED AND DEAR SIR,—On Wednesday, the 12th, the awful trial commenced, and on that day, when in court, I had the pleasure of receiving your most kind and parental letter, in answer to which I now communicate to you the melancholy issue of it, which, as I desired my friend Mr. Graham to inform you of immediately, will be no dreadful news to you. The morning lours, and all my hope of worldly joy is fled far from me. On Tuesday morning, the 18th inst., *the dreadful sentence of death* was pronounced upon me; to which (being the just decree of that Divine Providence who first gave me breath) I bow my devoted head, with that fortitude, cheerfulness, and resignation which is the duty of every member of the church of our blessed Saviour and Redeemer Christ Jesus. To Him alone I now look up for succour, in full hope that perhaps a few days more will open to the view of my astonished and fearful soul His kingdom of eternal and incom-

prehensible bliss, prepared only for the righteous of heart. I have not been found guilty of the slightest act of the detestable crime of mutiny, but am doomed to die for not being active in my endeavour to suppress it. Could the evidences who appeared in the court-martial be tried, they would also suffer for the same and only crime of which I have been guilty. But I am to be the victim. Alas! my youthful inexperience, and no depravity of will, is the sole cause to which I can attribute my misfortunes. But so far from repining from my fate, I receive it with a dreadful kind of joy, composure, and serenity of mind, well assured that it has pleased God to point me out as a subject through whom some greatly useful, though at present unsearchable intention of the Divine attributes may be carried into execution for the future benefit of my country. Then why should I repine at being made a sacrifice for the good of perhaps thousands of my fellow-creatures? Forbid it, Heaven! Why should I be sorry to leave a world in which I have met with



nothing out misfortunes and all their concomitant evils?

“I will, on the contrary, endeavour to divest myself of all wishes for the futile and sublunary enjoyments of it, and prepare my soul for its reception into the bosom of its Redeemer. For though the very strong recommendation I have had to his majesty’s mercy by all the members of the court *may* meet with his approbation, yet that is but the balance of a straw, a mere uncertainty, upon which no hope can be built. The other is a certainty which must one day happen to every mortal. Therefore the salvation of my soul requires my most powerful exertions during the short time I may have to remain on earth.

“As this is too tender a subject for me to inform my unhappy and distressed mother and sisters of, I trust, dear sir, you will either show them this letter, or make known to them the truly dreadful intelligence, in such a manner as, assisted by your wholesome and paternal advice, may enable them to bear it with Christian fortitude. The only worldly feelings I am

now possessed of are for their happiness and welfare. But even these, in my present situation, I must endeavour, with God's assistance, to eradicate from my heart, how hard soever the task. I must strive against cherishing any temporal affections. But, dear sir, endeavour to mitigate my distressed mother's sorrow. Give my everlasting duty to her, and unabated love to my disconsolate brothers and sisters, and all their relations. I have encouraged them, by my example, to bear up with fortitude and resignation to the divine will, under their load of misfortunes, almost too great for female nature to support. And teach them to be fully persuaded that all hopes of happiness on earth are vain. On my own account I still enjoy the most easy serenity of mind, and am, dearest sir, your greatly indebted and most dutiful, but ill-fated,\*

“PETER HEYWOOD.”

---

\* We need not point out the many false views and opinions contained in this letter. They are too plain to escape the notice even of young readers, who have had good parental or Sunday School instruction.

It was natural for a young man, whose spirit had been wellnigh broken by sorrows of different kinds, to view his case on the dark side. Many circumstances had, indeed, come out in his favour. Bligh, when writing to Colonel Holwell, an uncle of Peter's, said, "His conduct had always given me much pleasure and satisfaction." But then it had been alleged at the trial, that he had assisted in hoisting out the launch; that he had been seen by the carpenter resting his hand on a cutlass; and that he had laughed, on being called to by Bligh. His comments on these charges were forwarded by him to Lord Chatham, who then presided at the Admiralty. The explanations are very satisfactory, having the air of truth throughout. But he knew the unfavourable construction that might be put on doubtful acts; and he was aware that he had been neutral on an occasion of trial and danger.

Nor could the sufferer be ignorant of some then recent cases, short of murder, in which, amid extenuating circumstances, and consequent appeals to mercy, the

law had been allowed to run its course, and the capital sentence to pass into full effect.

His amiable sister Nussy, anxious to see him, and to be of use, resolved to accept the invitation given by a friend of her family, Mr. A. Graham, and to make her way up to London, where he resided. This gentleman had been a purser in the navy, and was afterward a valuable police magistrate in London. On the 3d of October, 1792, we find Nussy arrived at Liverpool from the Isle of Man, and writing thus to her mother and family:—

“We did not arrive here till noon this day, after a most tempestuous passage of forty-nine hours, with the wind directly contrary the whole way. Yet notwithstanding that vexatious circumstance, hard boards, aching bones in consequence, together with passing two nights almost without closing my eyes,—let me but be blessed with the cheering influence of HOPE, and I have spirit to undertake any thing. The plaid was a most comfortable thing to me; I wrapped it round my head. At the mouth of the river, this morning,

we met a small open fishing-boat, into which I got, as I was told I should, by that means, arrive two hours sooner than I should otherwise have done; and, as the sea was very high, every wave washed over me, and I had a complete wetting. On my arrival, I found poor Henry had sailed two days ago. I regret I did not come in time to see him, but I rejoice to find he went off in good spirits; and his last words mentioned *Peter*! I have been myself to secure a place in the mail-coach, and hope to be by ten o'clock to-night on my road to (may I not hope?) the completion of all my earthly happiness. Mr. Southcote, whom I passed at sea, will inform you, that the pardon went down to the king at Weymouth, some days ago. May we not, then, encourage a hope that I shall find all our misfortunes at an end? When I was tempted to repine at the winds, I remembered that they were favourable for Henry; I reflected on Peter's sufferings, and was content. Adieu, my dearest mamma, and sisters! God bless you all! In your prayers for our beloved

and exemplary sufferer, add a word or two for your most dutiful and affectionate,

“NESSY HEYWOOD.”

On the same day she wrote to Mr. Graham on the subject which was nearest to her heart, and which had determined her to visit London; and in a letter to her mother, dated the 5th October, Great Russell Street, the hospitable residence at which she had arrived, she announced her personal introduction to Mr. Graham, and added :—

“Well, my dear mamma, I have had a long conversation with Mr. Graham; and, to my utmost satisfaction, he says, ‘I look upon him,’ speaking of Peter, ‘to be the most amiable young man that can possibly exist. I do not scruple to say, that I should not entirely believe you, as you may be partial; but I speak from my own observation. He conducts himself in such a manner as will reflect the highest and most lasting honour on himself, and produce the strongest sensations of pleasure

and satisfaction to his friends.' Mr. Graham assures me, that there is not a doubt existing in the mind of any person who has seen the minutes of the court-martial, respecting Peter's innocence."

PETER HEYWOOD TO NESSY HEYWOOD.

"Hector, October 16th, 1792.

"I have this moment, by my brother James, my beloved sister's letter of yesterday, which gives me new pleasure, from the sentiments I find my dear mother, even now, entertains of me; notwithstanding the laws of my country have condemned me to be banished from this world, as a wretch unworthy to live in it. But what of that? Am I the first unhappy victim who has been torn from his dear family, his connections, and his all, though conscious of his own integrity and thorough innocence of the crime for which his life must be the unjust forfeit? No! Why then should I for a moment repine? I do not, nor ever will! For that idea alone, if placed on a good foundation, is sufficient to make any man so light that

he can buoyantly float upon the ruffled tide of misfortune. And I own to you, my dearest sister, it is that only which now enables me to support my life and spirits, which, without it, would soon bend beneath the ponderous load under which I have long tottered. But by-and-by I shall, with God's assistance, throw it off; then all will be well, and then shall I be a joyful partaker of that bliss of which I can now have but a very faint idea! Cheer up, then, my dear Nussy! Cherish your hope, and I will exercise my patience; both I know by experience to be productive of the same fruits of present content. James is gone to dine with Mr. Spranger, and I am employing my leisure hours in making a vocabulary of the Tahitian language. Whomsoever you write to at home, my love, remember me to them as I wish, and in particular, to our paternal friend, Mr. Graham.

“Ever, my dearest sister, your most ardently affectionate, and truly faithful brother,

“PETER HEYWOOD



“Keep up your dear spirits above all things. Hope is yours, and mine too.”

JAMES HEYWOOD TO NESSY HEYWOOD.

“Hector, 17th October, 1792.

“MY DEAR NESSY,—While I write this, Peter is sitting by me, making a Tahitian vocabulary, and so happy and intent upon it, that I have no opportunity of saying a word to him. He thinks, however, you must be very busy too, or you would not deprive us of the pleasure of paying fourpence every morning. You understand me. This is the second day you have omitted it. I assure you he is at present in excellent spirits; I am perfectly convinced they are better and better every day. Don't, my dear little Ness, suppose I tell you this merely to ease your mind. No, far from it; you must be certain I am in earnest, else I would not write to you in so light a strain. Adieu, dear sister. Best compliments to Mr. and Miss Graham, and believe me ever affectionately yours,

“JAMES HEYWOOD.”

We know how the recommendation to mercy prevailed. King George the Third was then enjoying a visit at Weymouth, with the queen and the royal family. It appears from the public records of that date, that he found pleasure in doing acts of kindness; and doubtless this exercise of the royal prerogative was a cause of much inward satisfaction to the king.

On the 24th of October, 1792, the royal warrant was despatched, granting a free pardon to Heywood and Morrison, with a respite for Musprat, which was followed by a pardon; and for executing Ellison, Burkitt, and Millward.

Millward and Musprat, with Churchill, were the men who had been deserters at Tahiti, and who had been forgiven by Bligh for that offence.

Morrison, before his connection with the *Bounty*, had served in the navy as a midshipman; and, after his pardon, had been appointed gunner of the *Blenheim*, in which he perished with Admiral Sir Thomas Troubridge. In a violent gale on the 1st of February, 1807 that vessel was

lost, with all the passengers and crew, in her way from Madras to the Cape of Good Hope.

Ellison, Burkitt, and Millward were executed, pursuant to their sentence, on the 29th of October, on board the ship Brunswick, in Portsmouth Harbour. Captain Hamond reported that the criminals had behaved with great penitence and decorum, had acknowledged the justice of their sentence, and exhorted their fellow-sailors to take warning by their untimely fate; enjoining them, whatever might be their hardships, never to forget their obedience to their officers, but to remember the duty which they owed to their king and country. The captain said, that a party from each ship in the harbour, and at Spithead, had attended the execution; and that, from the accounts he had received, the example seemed to have made a salutary impression on the minds of all the ships' companies present.

The following words were used by Mr. Heywood, when Captain Montague had

read to him his majesty's free and unconditional pardon, on the 27th of October :

“Sir, when the sentence of the law was passed upon me, I received it, I trust, as became a man; and if it had been carried into execution, I should have met my fate, I hope, in a manner becoming a Christian. Your admonition cannot fail to make a lasting impression upon my mind. I receive with gratitude my sovereign's mercy, for which my future life shall be faithfully devoted to his service.”

The pardon was a source of unspeakable delight to his family, especially to his sister Nussy, whose peace of mind had been broken by the terror of losing him by an ignominious death, and whose joy, on hearing of his pardon was, perhaps, more difficult to bear than her previous grief had been :

“For sudden joys, like griefs, confound at first.”

She had written to her mother and sisters on the 26th, enclosing a statement of the pardon having been transmitted to Portsmouth. In this letter she said, “O blessed

hour! Little did I think, my beloved friends, when I closed my letter this morning, that before night I should be out of my senses with joy. This moment, this ecstatic moment, brought the enclosed. I cannot speak my happiness. I am too *mad* to write sense; but 'tis a pleasure I would not forego to be the most reasonable being on earth.”\*

In this way the family received the delightful intelligence; and the warm-hearted and untiring Mr. Graham, unable to remain easy at home, hastened to Portsmouth to congratulate his young friend, and bring him to London. Nothing can be more hearty or natural than the following:—

MR. GRAHAM TO NESSY HEYWOOD.

“Portsmouth, October 27, 1792.

“MY DEAREST NESSY,

“If you expect me to enter into particulars as to *how* I got him, *when* I got him, and *where* I have him, you will be disap-

---

\* This is a very extravagant way of asserting that she would rather have lost her reason than that her brother should have lost his life.

pointed; for that is not in my power at present. Suffice it to say that he is now with me, and well; *not on board the Hector*, but at the house of a very worthy man. To-day we dine with Mr. Delafons; to-morrow we shall, perhaps, sleep on the London road; and on Tuesday,—Oh, my dear little girl! Kiss Maria for me, and tell her I love her dearly, and am,

“Yours most affectionately,

“A. GRAHAM.”

To this letter the following postscript was added:—

FROM PETER HEYWOOD TO NESSY.

“P. S. Be patient, my dearest Nessy, A few hours, and you will embrace your long-lost and most affectionate brother,

“PETER HEYWOOD.”

Mr. Graham's impatience, and generous anxiety to crown this joyful event, would not permit him to delay one moment; and on the Monday morning the happy party arrived in London.

On the 29th October a letter was written, apprizing the anxious mother of her

dear sailor-boy's arrival in London. Another letter, written after poor Nessy had seen him at liberty, breathes the tenderest feelings of a heart almost breaking with joy. It is thus headed:—

“Great Russell-street. Monday morning, 29th October, half-past ten o'clock, the brightest moment of my existence,” and ends thus:—

“I can write no more, but to tell you, that the three happiest beings at this moment on the earth are your most dutiful and affectionate children, NESSY HEYWOOD, PETER HEYWOOD, JAMES HEYWOOD.”

This amiable girl possessed, among other accomplishments, poetic powers of no common order. There remain in manuscript many copies of verses of her composition on various subjects; though her theme of themes was her brother, his sufferings, and his restoration to liberty and honour. The following are among the lines which she wrote, “*On receiving certain intelligence that my most amiable and beloved brother, Peter Heywood, would soon be restored to freedom:*”

O blissful hour!—O moment of delight!  
Replete with happiness, with rapture bright.  
An age of pain is sure repaid by this;  
'Tis joy too great—'tis ecstasy of bliss.  
My beating heart, oppressed with wo and care,  
Has yet to learn such happiness to bear.  
From grief, distracting grief, thus high to soar,  
To know dull pain and misery no more,  
To hail each op'ning morn with new delight,  
To rest in peace and joy each happy night,  
To see my Lycidas from bondage free,  
Restored to life, to pleasure, and to me;  
To see him thus, adorn'd with virtue's charms,  
To give him to a longing mother's arms,  
To know him by surrounding friends caress'd;  
Of honour, fame, of life's best gifts possess'd;  
O my full heart! 'tis joy, 'tis bliss supreme,  
And though 'tis real,—yet, how much like a dream!  
Then teach me, Heaven, to bear it as I ought;  
Inspire each rapt'rous, each transporting thought;  
Teach me to bend beneath thy bounteous hand,  
With gratitude my willing heart expand:  
To thy Omnipotence I humbly bow,  
Afflicted once—but ah! how happy now!

What reader does not wish to learn more about Nussy Heywood? In less than a year after her beloved brother's liberation, while still in her youthful days, she was called away from taking a part in this busy anxious world. It no longer re-



mained for her to “rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.” Active and alert no more in the service of those she loved, she was to seek her employment and consolation in her sick-chamber; and there is reason to believe, that, trusting in her Redeemer’s merits, she found comfort in true religion, without which the ties of affection must, she knew, be utterly dissolved, the enjoyment derived from it pass away for ever.

In the manuscript collection, from which the above letters and verses have been extracted, is a memorandum by Mrs. Heywood, (Peter’s mother,) in her own handwriting, dated, Douglas, Isle of Man, shortly after Nussy’s death. “My dearest Nussy was seized, while on a visit at Major Yorke’s, at Bishop’s Grove, near Tunbridge Wells, with a violent cold; and, not taking proper care of herself, it soon turned to inflammation on her lungs, which carried her off at Hastings, to which place she was taken on the 5th of September, to try if the change of air, and being near the sea, would recover her. But, alas! it

was too late for her to receive the wished-for benefit, and she died there on the 25th of the same month, 1793, and has left her only surviving parent a disconsolate mother, to lament, while ever she lives, with the most sincere affliction, the irreparable loss of her most valuable, affectionate, darling daughter."

Having, on his release, visited his family and friends, Mr. Heywood, as soon as his health was completely restored, re-entered the navy, by the desire of Captain Pasley, and on the express recommendation of Lord Hood, who had presided at his court-martial. Indeed, Lord Hood offered to take him under his own immediate patronage; but this was declined with thanks by Captain Pasley, who, on the 17th May, 1793, received him under his own command, into the *Bellerophon*.

In consideration of the king's free pardon, it was decided that no incapacity existed for his thus again fully undertaking the duties of his profession. In January, 1797, after he had done his duty in several actions with the French fleet, Earl

Spencer, who had attentively considered the several points connected with the court-martial of 1792, wrote to Sir Thomas Pasley, to say that those circumstances ought not to be allowed to stand in the way of Mr. Heywood's further progress in his profession; "more especially," said his lordship, "when the gallantry and propriety of his conduct, in his subsequent service, are taken into consideration. I shall therefore have no difficulty in mentioning him to the commander-in-chief on the station to which he belongs, as a person from whose promotion, on a proper opportunity, I shall derive much satisfaction."

He became a post-captain in 1803, and after a career of important and responsible service, including two diplomatic missions to South America, he was, on the 29th July, 1813, appointed to the command of the *Montagu*, of 74 guns, in which he served in the North Sea, and afterward in the Mediterranean, under the command of Lord Exmouth.

On Captain Heywood's return, the *Mon-*

tagu was paid off at Chatham, on the 16th July, 1816; and he came ashore, after having been actively employed at sea twenty-seven years, out of a service in the navy of twenty-nine years.

On the 18th May, 1818, Lord Melville, without any solicitation, made him the offer of the command, with a commodore's broad pendant, on the lakes in Canada. A considerable salary was annexed to this important office; but as he had married in 1816, and there was no war requiring his active exertions for the benefit of his country, Captain Heywood, with Lord Melville's permission, declined the proffered honour; and he afterward found his chief happiness in the bosom of his family. His career of activity being now at an end in an honourable profession, which had acknowledged and appreciated a life of useful labour, his early afflictions, the sufferings of body and soul, began to tell upon his constitution. It is thought, that during the period of his imprisonment, the seeds were sown of that disorder (a complaint

of the heart) which terminated his existence.

This valuable and excellent officer died in London on the 10th February, 1831, in his fifty-eighth year, and was buried in a vault at Highgate Chapel.

There is not room in these pages for an enumeration of his professional services; but Lieut. Marshall, in his *Naval Biography*, supplies the deficiency by the following passage, written in 1825, respecting him:—"The misfortunes of his youth proved highly beneficial to him. The greater part of those distinguished officers who had sat as members of the court-martial, justly considering him much more unfortunate than criminal, extended their patronage to him immediately after his release; and through their good offices, and his own meritorious behaviour, he was subsequently advanced, step by step, to the rank he at present holds. The duties which have fallen to his share he has ever performed with a zeal not inferior to that of any other officer in the service. The young men who have had the honour of

serving under him, many of whom now enjoy commissions, will readily and gratefully acknowledge, that, both by precept, and his own example, he invariably endeavoured to form their characters, as men and officers, in the solid principles of religion and virtue. In short, we do not hesitate to say, that his king and country never had a more faithful servant, nor the naval service a more worthy and respectable member."

## CHAPTER IV.

CHRISTIAN AND HIS PARTY—PITCAIRN'S ISLAND—FOLGER'S  
ACCOUNT—LANDING OF NINE MUTINEERS AND OTHERS AT  
PITCAIRN—DREADFUL DEATHS OF CHRISTIAN AND OTHERS  
—INTOLERABLE STATE OF SOCIETY AT PITCAIRN—INTEM-  
PERANCE—RETRIBUTION FROM GOD.

TWENTY years had passed away, and the Bounty and Fletcher Christian, and the piratical crew that he had carried off with him in that ship, had long ceased to occupy a thought in the public mind. Throughout the whole of that eventful period, the attention of all Europe had been absorbed in the contemplation of enterprises of great moment—of the revolutions of empires—the bustle and business of warlike preparations—the movements of hostile armies, and battles by sea and land. If the subject of the Bounty was accidentally mentioned, it was merely to express an opinion that this vessel and

those within her had gone down to the bottom, or that some savage islanders had inflicted on the mutineers that measure of retribution so justly due to their crime. It happened, however, some years before the conclusion of this war of unexampled duration, that an accidental discovery, as interesting as it was wholly unexpected, was brought to light in consequence of an American trading vessel having approached one of those numerous islands in the Pacific against whose steep and iron-bound shore the surf almost everlastingly rolls with such tremendous violence as to bid defiance to any attempt of boats to land, except at particular times and in very few places.

In the year 1809, Sir Sidney Smith, commander-in-chief on the Brazil station, informed the Admiralty that Captain Folger, of the ship *Topaz*, of Boston, on landing at Pitcairn's Island, in 1808, had found an Englishman named Alexander Smith, the only person remaining of nine that had found their way thither in the *Bounty*. Smith, otherwise John Adams,



(who had, on first entering the service, assumed the name of Alexander Smith,) related that after putting Bligh into the boat, Christian, with the other mutineers, had gone to Tahiti, where all hands remained but Christian, Smith, and seven others; that each had taken a Tahitian wife, and then proceeded to Pitcairn, where they had made good a landing, and afterward broken up the *Bounty*.

This brings our readers to Pitcairn's Island. Some of them may desire to learn the origin of its name, and the circumstances of its first discovery by British navigators.

Captain Philip Carteret, in his description of a voyage round the world, wrote as follows, July, 1767:—

“We continued our course westward till the evening of Thursday, the 2d of July, when we discovered land to the northward of us. Upon approaching it the next day, it appeared like a great rock rising out of the sea. It was not more than five miles in circumference, and seemed to be uninhabited. It was, however,

covered with trees; and we saw a small stream of fresh water running down one side of it. I would have landed upon it, but the surf, which at this season broke upon it with great violence, rendered it impossible. I got soundings on the west side of it, at somewhat less than a mile from the shore, in twenty-five fathoms, with a bottom of coral and sand; and it is probable that in fine summer weather, landing here may not only be practicable, but easy. We saw a great number of sea-birds hovering about it, at somewhat less than a mile from the shore; and the sea here seemed to have fish. It is so high that we saw it at the distance of more than fifteen leagues; and it having been discovered by a young gentleman, son to Major Pitcairn, of the marines, we called it PITCAIRN'S ISLAND. This young man was unfortunately lost in the *Aurora*.\*

“While we were in the neighbourhood of this island, the weather was extremely

---

\* His father, Major Pitcairn, was killed early in the war of the American Revolution.





tempestuous, with long rolling billows from the southward, larger and higher than any I had seen before."

Pitcairn's Island, distant about 1200 miles from Tahiti, is of volcanic origin. The peculiar features of the volcanic islands, of which there are several in the south seas, show that they have been elevated from the bed of the ocean by the resistless force of fire, which has given a vertical character and jagged outline to their rocky mountains, and greatly increased the wild beauties of their scenery. Pitcairn is in latitude  $25^{\circ} 4'$  south, and longitude  $130^{\circ} 8'$  west; and the highest point is about 1008 feet above the level of the sea. In clear weather the island may be seen at forty miles distance. It is four miles and a half in circumference, one mile and a half being the greatest length. The climate, which is just without the tropics, is adapted for the production of useful vegetables, which form the chief article of food:—Irish and sweet potatoes, yams, bread-fruit, a vegetable

called taro, pumpkins, Indian maize, and beans. Here and there are patches of the tobacco-plant, and sugar-canes. The fruits are pines, plantains, and bananas, oranges, limes, melons, a species of apple and cocoa-nuts. Among the trees are the cocoa-nut, the plantain, the bread-fruit tree, the Nono, &c.; but the most striking and remarkable is the banyan:—

“The fig-tree—not that kind for fruit renown’d—  
But such as at this day to India known,  
In Malabar or Deccan spreads her arms,  
Branching so broad and long, that in the ground  
The bended twig takes root, and daughters grow  
About the mother-tree, a pillar’d shade,  
High over-reach’d, and echoing walks between.  
There oft the Indian herdsman, shunning heat,  
Shelters in cool, and tends his pasturing herds  
At loop-holes cut through thickest shade.”

MILTON.

The temperature of Pitcairn ranges from 59° in winter to 87° in summer. The average is 65° in winter, and 82° in summer. The vegetation sometimes suffers from swarms of insects. To remedy this evil, there having been on the island only

species of land bird, a small fly-catcher, it was thought desirable to convey some birds to the spot. Her majesty's ship *Virago*, Commander Prevost, left Calloa for Pitcairn in January, 1853, having on board singing-birds, rose-trees, myrtles, &c. for the present inhabitants of the island, the descendants of the mutineers.

There are lizards, but no venomous reptiles on the island. The people are annoyed by rats, which do much damage to the sugar-canes. Hence the strictness of the law ordained by the islanders for the preservation of cats. If a cat is killed without being positively detected in killing fowls, the person killing such cat is obliged to destroy 300 rats, and produce their tails as evidence that the penalty has been paid.

About half the island, consisting of six hundred acres, is cultivated. The rest is considered too rocky for cultivation. There being but little beach, the quantity of seaweed washed up is small; such as there is, however, is employed for the use of the ground.

Though the climate cannot be called un-

healthy, the people are not generally long-lived. Arthur Quintal, the oldest man among them, is only fifty-seven; Elizabeth Young, daughter of the late John Mills, though the oldest person on the island, is but sixty. The ailments to which the islanders are most subject are rheumatism, influenza, bilious affections, and diseases of the heart.

Nature has fortified the coast with powerful barriers, which render it most difficult of access, except in Bounty Bay, situate on the north-east side; and even there the approach is impossible when the sea is high. The ships, which occasionally remain awhile in the neighbourhood of the island, and for which there is abundance of water, stand off and on as well as they may, and as the wind allows them. Though soundings in from twenty-five to thirty-five fathoms may be obtained at some distance, anchorage is seldom resorted to; the state of the ground being such as to cause a risk of losing the anchor. Lofty bristling rocks, one of which is called St. Paul's Point, rise perpendicu-



larly from the sea; and cliffs, with clumps of cocoa-nut trees at their base, are seen, as the boats approach the beach, which is shingly, and very narrow at the place of landing. The landing is effected in the boats of the natives; these being better suited than ships' boats for passing the breakers.

"Having set foot on shore," says Mr. Brodie, who was there in March, 1850, "you ascend a steep hill, almost a cliff, for about three hundred yards, to a table-land, planted with cocoa-nut trees, which is called the market-place, about a quarter of a mile beyond which, at the north end of the island, lies the settlement, flanked by a grove of cocoa-nut trees, kumeras. and plantains, which make the approach very picturesque.

Though the island, according to Captain Carteret, owes its name to young Mr. Pitcairn, he having been the first native of Great Britain who noted the place, it was doubtless once known by some other name, which is now lost, together with all traces of its former inhabitants, except a few hu-

man skeletons, idols, and weapons, which were discovered there by the mutineers. It has become a clear matter of fact, that the island was inhabited previously to their arrival. Overlooking Bounty Bay is a lofty peak, within 100 yards of which were found on a rock four images, about six feet in height, placed upon a platform, which is called a *paipai*. One of these was a rude representation of the human figure, to the hips, hewn out of a piece of red lava. Each of the skulls which were dug up had under it a pearl shell, according to the mode of burial adopted in the place at the time, probably some centuries since. It has been suggested with reason, that the ancient occupants were drifted to this place from the Gambier, or other islands, on a raft. Several specimens of hatchets, and spear-heads of very hard stone, and a large stone bowl, were discovered. The mutineers also met, on the east side of the island, with certain uncouth carvings of the sun, moon, stars, a bird, men, &c., in a cavern situate in the face of a cliff

There are some inaccuracies in the narrative forwarded by Captain Folger, in his letter of March 1, 1813, respecting his visit to the island. He stated that about six years after the arrival of the nine mutineers, the Tahitians had killed all the Englishmen, except Smith, who was severely wounded; and that on the same night the Tahitian widows had risen and murdered all their countrymen, leaving only Smith, with the widows and children. His account may be corrected by the following statement:—

After getting rid of Mr. Bligh, and his crew, the mutineers sailed for Toubouai, an island about 500 miles south of Tahiti, where they intended to land; but the natives refusing to admit them, they proceeded to Tahiti. A second ineffectual attempt at settling having been made on Toubouai, and a refuge having again been found, for a short time, at Tahiti, Christian and eight of his comrades left for Pitcairn, in the *Bounty*, with certain Tahitians, the rest of the mutineers remaining at Tahiti. It happened that Carte-

ret's description of Pitcairn had been on board the *Bounty*; and this probably determined Christian in his choice.

When the *Bounty* arrived at Pitcairn's Island, she had on board nine Englishmen, with nine Tahitian women, their wives; six Tahitian men, three of whom had wives; and a little girl—making twenty-eight persons who landed. This little girl, then an infant of ten months old, was afterward the wife Charles Christian, and the mother of Mr. G. H. Nobbs's wife. The names of the nine mutineers who reached the island in the *Bounty* were—

FLETCHER CHRISTIAN . . . .	Master's Mate
EDWARD YOUNG . . . . .	Midshipman.
JOHN MILLS . . . . .	Gunner's Mate.
MATTHEW QUINTAL . . . .	Seaman.
WILLIAM MCCOY . . . . .	Ditto.
ALEXANDER SMITH, alias JOHN	} Ditto.
ADAMS . . . . .	
JOHN WILLIAMS . . . . .	Ditto.
ISAAC MARTIN . . . . .	Ditto.
WILLIAM BROWN . . . . .	Gardener.

Christian and Young were men of good education. The former was the brother of Edward Christian, Esq., Professor of Law at Cambridge, Chief Justice of Ely, and Edi-

tor of Blackstone's Commentaries. Young was a nephew of Sir George Young, Bart. The other mutineers who landed at Pitcairn were chiefly sailors of the ordinary class.

They had not long set foot upon the island when it became a stage for the display of every evil passion. They were "hateful, and hating one another."

Removed from the restraints imposed upon the wicked by the presence of a Christian community, they showed in their conduct the workings of the depraved heart of man. At home, surrounded by friends whose good opinion they esteemed, and under laws that would visit with vengeance the commission of crime, these very men might have lived reputable lives. But God regards the heart, not the conduct, and under the garb of decent behaviour he sees the selfish desires and unholy passions that are concealed from our fellow-men. No sooner are these restraints removed, than we find men breaking all the laws of God and giving a loose rein to their natural desires. This is seen in

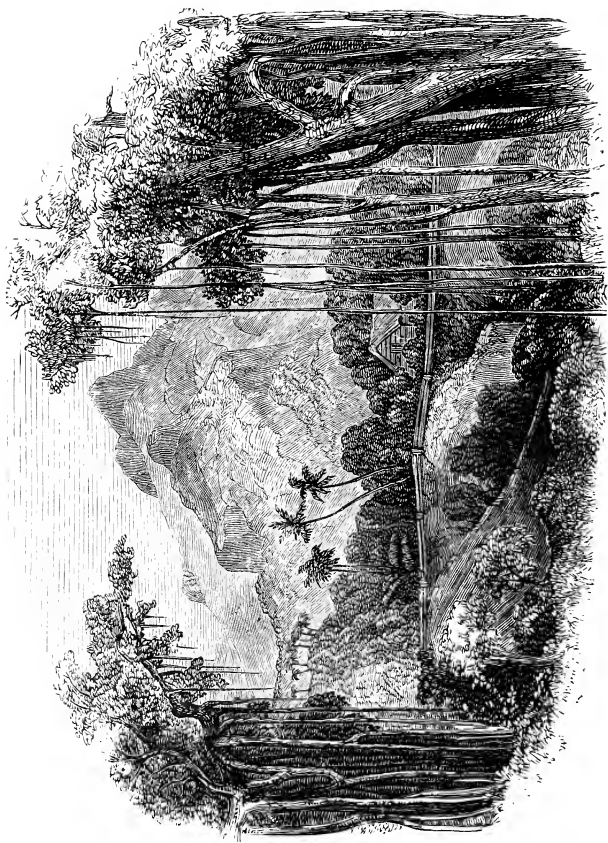
men who go from Christian lands to China, Africa, the Islands of the Pacific, and other heathen countries. It shows the truth of those passages in the Bible which declare that all men are estranged from God—that their hearts are vile, and that except they be born again they can never see the kingdom of God. Nothing more clearly and sadly shows what the human heart is when freed from restraint than the history of the nine mutineers who reached Pitcairn's Island.

The first step after their arrival was to divide the whole island into nine equal portions, to the exclusion of those poor people whom they had seduced to accompany them, and some of whom are stated to have been carried off against their inclination. At first they were considered as the friends of the white men, but very soon became their slaves. They assisted in the cultivation of the soil, in building houses, and in fetching wood and water, without murmuring or complaining. Things went on peaceably and prosperously for about two years, when Williams, who had lost

his wife about a month after their arrival, by a fall from a rock while collecting birds' eggs, became dissatisfied, and insisted on having another wife, or threatened to leave the island in one of the *Bounty's* boats. Being useful as an armourer, the Europeans were unwilling to part with him, and he, still persisting in his unreasonable demand, had the injustice to compel one of the Tahitians to give up his wife to him.

By this act of flagrant oppression his countrymen made common cause with their injured companion, and laid a plan for the extermination of the Europeans; but the women gave a hint of what was going forward in a song, the burden of which was, "Why does black man sharpen axe?—to kill white man." The plot being thus discovered, the husband who had his wife taken from him, and another whom Christian had shot at, (though, it is stated, with powder only,) fled into the woods, and were treacherously murdered by their countrymen on the promise of pardon for the perpetration of this foul deed.

Tranquillity being thus restored, mat-





afterward carried to Christian's house. McKoy and Quintal, the worst of the gang, escaped to the mountains. Here this day of bloodshed ended, leaving only four Englishmen alive out of nine. It was a day of emancipation to the blacks, who were now masters of the island, and of humiliation and retribution to the whites.

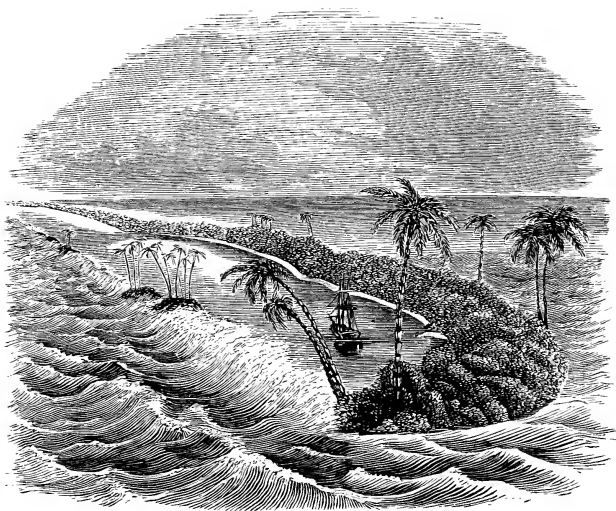
The Tahitians now began to quarrel, and the result was the destruction of the whole of them, some falling by the hands of the women, and one of them by Young, who, it would seem, coolly and deliberately shot him. Adams now proceeded into the mountains to communicate the fatal intelligence to the two Europeans, McKoy and Quintal, and to solicit their return to the village. All these events happened as early as October, 1793.

In 1794, the state of the island had become so intolerable to the women, that they resolved to brave the perils of the sea, rather than remain. They had accordingly prepared to set off secretly in a boat, which, fortunately for them, upset in launching; as the men who had built it probably in-

tended it should do; and the women, foiled in their attempt to get away, again settled down in their sad and unwelcome home. Whither they had proposed to go, it is impossible to say. The nearest island to Pitcairn, nearly ninety miles to the north, is Oeno, of coral formation, a barren place, most difficult of access.

There is also, about 120 miles from Pitcairn, Elizabeth or Henderson's Island, so called after Captain Henderson, of the *Hercules*, of Calcutta. It is nearly eighty feet above the level of the sea, five miles in length, one mile in breadth, of volcanic formation, and covered with dead coral. The soil is poor and sandy. There are many trees and shrubs on the island, and it has been occasionally visited by the Pitcairn people, chiefly for the sake of the timber found there. On the occasion of their visit in 1851, they found eight human skeletons lying in caves; probably the remains of some shipwrecked mariners, who, unable to procure food or water, had lain down to die.

The women, in the same year in which



Coral Island.



they had endeavoured to quit Pitcairn, deliberately planned the destruction of the four men left among them. This dreadful plot was discovered in time by the men; and a partial and suspicious peace was brought about. But other horrors remained behind.

McKoy had formerly been employed in a Scotch distillery, and being much addicted to ardent spirits, set about making experiments on the *tee-root*, and at length unfortunately succeeded in producing an intoxicating liquor. This success induced his companion Quintal to turn his kettle into a still. The consequence was, that these two men were in a constant state of drunkenness, particularly McKoy; on whom it had the effect of producing fits of delirium; and in one of these he threw himself from a cliff, and was killed on the spot! The melancholy fate of this man created so forcible an impression on the remaining few, that they resolved never again to touch spirits.

Some time in the following year, Quintal (having lost his wife by a fall from the cliff

while in search of birds' eggs,) grew discontented, and nothing would satisfy him but the wife of one of his companions. Of course neither of them felt inclined to accede to this unreasonable demand; and he sought an opportunity of putting them both to death. He was fortunately foiled in his first attempt, but swore openly he would speedily repeat it. Adams and Young, having no doubt he would follow up his intention, and fearing he might be more successful in the next attempt, came to the resolution that, as their own lives were not safe while he was in existence, they were justified in putting him to death, which they did by felling him, as they would an ox, with a hatchet.

Thus, six of the mutineers were murdered, and one committed suicide. Edward Young died of asthma, in 1800. Adams had been severely wounded in one of the contests that took place, but had recovered. Only two of the fifteen men who had landed from the *Bounty* (Young and Adams) died a natural death.

Here we may pause to reflect on the

unhappy lives and dreadful end of those who had been guilty of such heinous offences against the laws of God and man. Though Christian, when fixed at Pitcairn, often wore a cheerful countenance and manner, there is reason to believe that the remembrance of the past was deeply painful to him, and that shame and remorse, mingled with the fear of detection, weighed heavily on his mind.

On the top of a high rock, is a spot which he called his "look-out." While many hearts, thousands of miles off, were wounded, if not broken, by suspense and uncertainty respecting the fate of himself and his companions, he was either employed in surveying the ocean around him, under the apprehension of the approach of the officers of justice, or in endeavouring to control the turbulent community among whom he had irrevocably cast his lot.

It may be observed, that punishment in this life often bears a startling likeness to the sin which has been committed, and which not only thus finds the offender out, but shows him that it has done so.

Within the narrow limits of the island, as in the confines of a ship, Christian had enemies at hand, who harassed, and at length took away his life; and it is a remarkable fact, that he who had raised his hand in a criminal manner against his superior in command, should have suffered death from those whom he looked upon as under his authority.

“THE WAY OF TRANSGRESSORS IS HARD.”  
*“Oh that men were wise! that they understood this! that they would consider their latter end!”*



## CHAPTER V.

JOHN ADAMS TURNS TO GOD—INSTRUCTS THE CHILDREN—  
THE STATE OF PITCAIRN IN 1814 DESCRIBED—ACCOUNT  
GIVEN BY SIR THOMAS STAINES AND CAPTAIN PIPON—  
CAPTAIN BEECHEY—DEATH OF JOHN ADAMS.

DRUNKENNESS, murder, and death had swept away the mutineers of the *Bounty* one after another, until now only a single male remained! In the year 1800, John Adams, having then reached his thirty-sixth year, found himself the only man on the island. Some of the Tahitian women still lived, and twenty children of the deceased mutineers. These all looked up to him with reverence and affection as the father of the island family. It pleased God to touch his heart, and to make him an instrument of good to those around him. The families of his comrades had been brought up in ignorance of their God and Saviour. Their fathers were muti-

neers and murderers, and their mothers heathen idolaters. A treasure of inestimable price had been saved from the Bounty—it was a BIBLE. One Bible, and one only, was, as it were, given by God to this survivor of that guilty band, that he might be guided in the way of life, and also that he might lead this little flock of semi-pagans in their journey through life to the gates of the celestial city.

There was also bound up with this Bible\* the English Book of Common Prayer, which greatly aided this poor and ignorant man, after his conversion, in teaching the children and conducting religious services.

In the year 1810, John Adams had two remarkable dreams, which presented to him in vivid colours his past transgressions, and the awful nature of the punishment

---

\* This book is now in the hands of an eminent merchant of the city of New York, the president of the American Seamen's Friend Society, by whom it is greatly valued on account of its deeply interesting history. The compiler of this little volume has had the privilege of seeing it, and that with the most lively interest.

awaiting them. These dreams produced in him a lasting and wholesome impression, and effectually moved his conscience. May we not believe this to have been the influence of the Holy Spirit, whose merciful design it was to give him a better knowledge of himself, and of the justice and goodness of God, and to bring him, an humble suppliant, to the throne of grace, for the pardon of his sins, through the merits of a crucified Saviour? “Behold,” says our Lord, “I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.” God was now knocking at the door of his heart, both by his word and his providence, and we have reason to believe that he heard the voice of God, and opened the door of his heart, and was made a new creature by the Spirit of God.

Let no one say that there is any encouragement to superstition in these remarks. That which is uppermost in the thoughts, though it may not have ripened into good resolutions, much less into right

practice, is frequently displayed in a manner strong as reality, in those solemn hours, when the world is shut out, and "deep sleep falleth upon man." An idea, which has been presented to the mind while we are awake, often assumes, by reflection, and during the hours of sleep, a solemnity and importance which it did not before possess. And perhaps there are no inward admonitions more affecting, or more fruitful of good than those which relate to our children, and to the obligations under which we are laid to conduct the young in the right way. Happy are they who are wise enough to make a good use of that which appears to have been sent to them for a good end. Adams had begun to read his Bible; and who can tell the power given by the grace of God to the study of the revealed Word, with prayer, and to a thoughtful and candid perusal of the injunctions of the Saviour, to whom the young were objects of the tenderest regard? The word of God is sharper than any two-edged sword; and God is pleased to use it at times for the conversion of

sinners, without the preaching of the gospel by men. Oh! who can tell the value of that one Bible!

With his clearer view of the parental character, and of the condition of his own soul, Adams became a religious man. He instructed the young people about him in the fear of God. He prayed for them. and for himself. He always had morning and evening prayers, and taught the children the Collects, and other portions of the Prayer Book, beginning with the Lord's Prayer, and the Apostles' Creed. He was afterward very fond of reading a book entitled, "The Knowledge and Practice of Christianity; an Instruction for the Indians. By the Rev. Dr. Wilson, Bishop of Sodor and Man." His youthful pupils took such delight in his instructions, that, on one occasion, on his offering to two of the lads, Arthur Quintal and Robert Young, some compensation for their labour in preparing ground for planting yams, they proposed, that, instead of his giving the present held out to them, consisting of a small quantity of gunpowder, he should

teach them some extra lessons out of the Bible ; a request with which he joyfully complied.

Adams was no ordinary man, or he could never have accomplished the arduous task which he had undertaken to perform. By a steadfast adherence to the line of duty which he had marked out for his conduct, he could not but perceive that the blessing of God was upon his labours. The fruits of good became apparent in a place where indifference to religion and looseness of morals had prevailed ; and when we consider the latter part of his pilgrimage, and the filial reverence with which he was regarded by his juniors, we may conclude that this island-patriarch had much to cheer and encourage him amid the trials and sorrows which had come upon him. Among the most comfortable feelings of his heart, as the end of his existence drew on, was probably the well-grounded hope that the rising generation would fear God and keep His commandments. Looking at the improved condition of the people, just previously to his

death, which happened in March, 1829, when he was sixty-five years of age, he might well have been gladdened by the prospect of the continuance among them of those firm and solid principles of true religion which had been fixed upon a sure foundation.

On the occasion of Captain Folger's visit to Pitcairn in 1808, he had carried away a chronometer and compass, originally belonging to the *Bounty*, for the purpose of forwarding them to the Admiralty. But no further notice was taken of the island, nor of its inhabitants, until 1814, when two British men-of-war, the *Briton* and the *Tagus*, Captain Sir Thomas Staines, and Captain Pipon, being in search of an American ship of war, the *Essex*, arrived at Pitcairn.

Much of Adams's trouble and anxiety in former years naturally arose from the fear of being discovered and taken. In May, 1795, he and his brother-mutineers having observed a ship nearing the island, in their terror hid themselves in the bush. Having cautiously left their place of con-

concealment, they found a knife by the seaside, and a few cocoa-nut shells, proving that some persons had landed. The visitors, however, it would seem, had not noticed any signs of houses, and had therefore proceeded on their voyage.

Adams now supposed that his time was come, and that he should be carried away. Though much alarmed, he did not attempt concealment, but presented himself to the officers, who soon reassured him by saying that he was not to be arrested; the time was past for that: he had been a quarter of a century in the island, and his presence was useful to the islanders.

The condition of the place and people at that date cannot be better described than by Sir T. Staines in his own words, in a letter addressed by him to Vice-Admiral Manly Dixon:—

“Briton, Valparaiso, Oct. 18th, 1814.

“SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that on my passage from the Marquesas Islands to this point, on the morning of the 17th September, I fell in with an



island where none is laid down in the Admiralty or other charts, according to the several chronometers of the Briton and Tagus. I therefore hove to, until daylight, and then closed to ascertain whether it was inhabited, which I soon discovered it to be, and, to my great astonishment, found that every individual on the island (forty in number) spoke very good English. They proved to be the descendants of the deluded crew of the Bounty, which from Tahiti proceeded to the above-mentioned island, where the ship was burned.

“Christian appeared to have been the leader, and the sole cause of the mutiny in that ship. A venerable old man, named John Adams, is the only surviving Englishman of those who last quitted Tahiti in her, and whose exemplary conduct, and fatherly care of the whole little colony, could not but command admiration. The pious manner in which all those born on the island have been reared, the correct sense of religion which has been instilled into their young minds by this old man, has given him the pre-eminence over the

whole of them, to whom they look up as the father of the whole, and one family.

“A son of Christian was the first born on the island, now about twenty-five years of age, (named Thursday October Christian;) the elder Christian fell a sacrifice to the jealousy of a Tahitian man, within three or four years after their arrival on the island. They were accompanied thither by six Tahitian men and twelve women; the former were all swept away by desperate contentions between them and the Englishmen, and five of the latter have died at different periods, leaving at present only one man and several women, of the original settlers.

“The island must, undoubtedly, be that called Pitcairn, although erroneously laid down in the charts. We had the meridian sun close to it, which gave us 25 degrees 4 minutes south latitude, and 130 degrees 25 minutes west longitude, by chronometers of the Briton and Tagus. It is abundant in yams, plantains, hogs, goats, and fowls, but affords no shelter for a ship or

vessel of any description: neither could a ship water there without great difficulty.

“I cannot refrain from offering my opinion, that it is well worthy the attention of our laudable religious societies, particularly that for propagating the Christian religion, the whole of the inhabitants speaking the Tahitian tongue as well as English. During the whole of the time they have been on the island, only one ship has ever communicated with them, which took place about six years since, by an American ship, called the *Topaz*, of Boston, Mayhew Folger, master. The island is completely iron-bound, with rocky shores, and landing in boats at all times difficult, although safe to approach within a short distance in a ship.

“T. STAINES.”

It is rather remarkable, that in this letter John Adams should have been styled a “venerable old man,” as he was then only fifty years of age. But he had suffered much anxiety; for a long period of his life he had been a stranger to security;

and his weather-beaten face bore marks of a more advanced age than that which he had attained. He is mentioned in Bligh's description, as very much pitted with the small-pox, and "tattooed on his body, legs, arms, and feet."

Captain Pipon takes a more extended view, in his private letter, of the condition of this little society. He observes, that when they first saw the island, the latitude made by the Tagus was 24 degrees 40 minutes south, and longitude 130 degrees 24 minutes west, the ships being then distant from it five or six leagues; and as in none of the charts in their possession was any land laid down in or near this meridian, they were extremely puzzled to make out what island it could possibly be; for Pitcairn's Island, being the only one known in the neighbourhood, was represented to be in longitude 133 degrees 24 minutes west. If this new discovery, as they supposed it to be, awakened their curiosity, it was still more excited when they ran in for the land the next morning, on perceiving a few huts, neatly built, amid plan-

tations laid out apparently with something like order and regularity; and these appearances confirmed them more than ever that it could not be Pitcairn's Island, because that was described by navigators to be uninhabited. Presently they observed a few natives coming down a steep descent, with their canoes on their shoulders; and in a few minutes perceived one of those little vessels darting through a heavy surf, and paddling off toward the ships; but their astonishment was extreme when, on coming alongside, they were hailed in the English language with "Won't you heave us a rope now?"

The first young man that sprang, with extraordinary alacrity, up the side, and stood before them on the deck, said, in reply to the question, "Who are you?"—that his name was Thursday October Christian, son of the late Fletcher Christian, by a Tahitian mother; that he was the first born on the island, and that he was so called because he was brought into the world on a Thursday in October. Singularly strange as all this was to Sir Thomas

Staines and Captain Pipon, this youth soon satisfied them that he was no other than the person he represented himself to be, and that he was fully acquainted with the whole history of the *Bounty*; and, in short, that the island before them was the retreat of the mutineers of that ship. Young Christian was at this time about twenty-four years of age, a fine tall youth, full six feet high, with dark, almost black, hair, and a countenance open and extremely interesting. As he wore no clothes except a piece of cloth round his loins, and a straw hat, ornamented with black cock's feathers, his fine figure and well-shaped muscular limbs were displayed to great advantage, and attracted general admiration. His body was much tanned by exposure to the weather, and his countenance had a brownish cast, unmixed, however, with that tinge of red so common among the natives of the Pacific islands.

“Added to a great share of good-humour, we were glad to trace,” says Captain Pipon, “in his benevolent countenance, all the features of an honest English face.”

The ingenuous manner in which he answered all questions put to him, and his whole deportment, created a lively interest among the officers of the ship, who, while they admired, could not but regard him with feelings of tenderness and compassion; his manner, too, of speaking English was exceedingly pleasing, and correct both in grammar and pronunciation. His companion was a fine handsome youth of seventeen or eighteen years of age, of the name of George Young, son of Young, the midshipman.

If the astonishment of the two captains was great on making, as they thought, this first and extraordinary discovery of a people who had been so long forgotten, and in hearing the offspring of these offenders speaking their language correctly, their surprise and interest were still more highly excited when, on Sir Thomas Staines taking the two youths below, and setting before them something to eat, they both rose up, and one of them, placing his hands together in a posture of devotion, pronounced, distinctly and with emphasis, in a pleasing

tone of voice, the words, "*For what we are going to receive the Lord make us truly thankful.*"

The youths were themselves greatly surprised at the sight of so many novel objects—the size of the ship—of the guns, and every thing around them. Observing a cow, they were at first somewhat alarmed, and expressed a doubt whether it was a huge goat or a horned hog, these being the only two species of quadrupeds they had ever seen. A little dog amused them much. "Oh! what a pretty little thing it is!" exclaimed Young. "I know it is a dog, for I have heard of such an animal."

These young men informed the two captains of many singular events that had taken place among the first settlers, but referred them for further particulars to an old man on shore, whose name, they said, was John Adams, the only surviving Englishman that came away in the *Bounty*, at which time he was called Alexander Smith.

This information induced the two captains to go on shore, desirous of learning correctly from this old man the fate, not



only of Christian, but of the rest of his deluded accomplices, who had adhered to his fortunes. The landing they found to be difficult, and not wholly free from danger; but, with the assistance of their two able conductors, they passed the surf among many rocks, and reached the shore without any other inconvenience than a complete wetting. Old Adams, having ascertained that the two officers alone had landed, and without arms, concluded they had no intention to take him prisoner, and ventured to come down to the beach, from whence he conducted them to his house. He was accompanied by his wife, a very old woman, and nearly blind. It seems they were both at first considerably alarmed; the sight of a soldier's uniform, after so many years, having no doubt brought fresh to the recollection of Adams the scene that occurred in the *Bounty*, in which he bore so conspicuous a part. Sir Thomas Staines, however, to set his mind at ease, assured him, that so far from having come to the island with any intention to take him away, they were not even aware that

such a person as himself existed. Captain Pipon observes, "that although in the eye of the law they could only consider him in the light of a criminal of the deepest dye, yet it would have been an act of the greatest cruelty and inhumanity to take him away from his little family, who in such a case would have been left to experience the greatest misery and distress, and ultimately, in all probability, would have perished of want."

This interesting little colony was now found to contain about forty-six persons, mostly grown-up young people, with a few infants. The young men, all born on the island, were finely formed, athletic, and handsome—their countenances open and pleasing, indicating much benevolence and goodness of heart; but the young women particularly were objects of attraction, being tall, robust, and beautifully formed, their faces beaming with smiles and indicating unruffled good-humour; while their manners and demeanour exhibited a degree of modesty and bashfulness that would have done honour to the most vir-

tuous and enlightened people on earth. Their teeth are described as beautifully white, like the finest ivory, and perfectly regular, without a single exception; and all of them, both male and female, had the marked expression of English features, though not exactly the clear red and white that distinguish English skins, their's being the colour of what we call brunette.

But their personal qualifications, attractive as they were, excited less admiration than the account which Adams gave of their virtuous conduct. The precepts of religion and morality instilled into their young minds by John Adams, had hitherto preserved these interesting people from every kind of debauchery. The young women told Captain Pipon, with great simplicity, that they were not married, and that their father, as they called Adams, had told them it was right they should wait with patience till they had acquired sufficient property to bring up a young family before they thought of marrying; and that they always followed his advice, because they knew it to be good.

It appeared that from the time when Adams was left alone on the island, the sole survivor of all the males that had landed from the *Bounty*, European and Tahitian, the greatest harmony had prevailed in their little society; they all declared that no serious quarrels had ever occurred among them, though a few hasty words might now and then be uttered; but, to make use of their own expression, they were only quarrels of the mouth. Adams assured his visitors that they were all strictly honest in all their dealings, lending or exchanging their various articles of live-stock or produce with each other in the most friendly manner; and if any little dispute occurred, he never found any difficulty to rectify the mistake or misunderstanding that might have caused it, to the satisfaction of both parties. In their general intercourse they speak the English language commonly; and even the old Tahitian women have picked up a good deal of this language. The young people, both male and female,

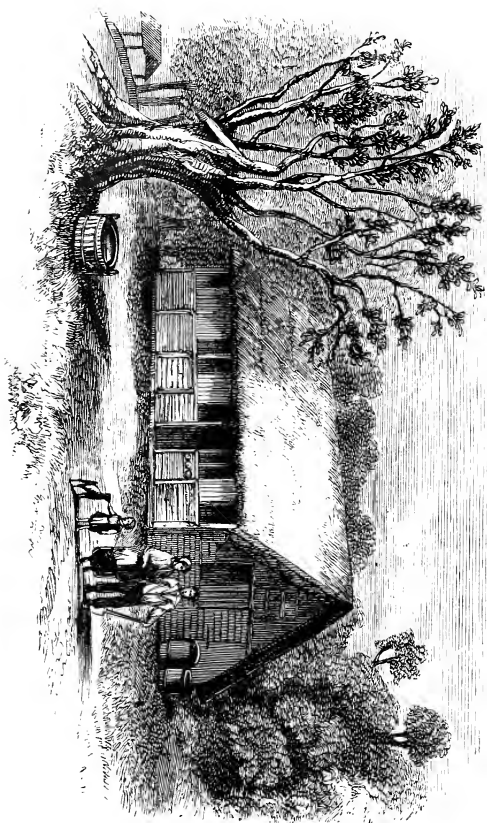
speak it with a pleasing accent, and their voices are extremely harmonious.

The little village of Pitcairn is described as forming a pretty square; the house of John Adams, with its out-houses, occupying the upper corner, a large banyan-tree and that of Thursday October Christian the lower corner opposite to it. The centre space is a fine open lawn, where the poultry wander, and is fenced around so as to prevent the intrusion of the hogs and goats. It was obviously visible, from the manner in which the grounds were laid out and the plantations formed, that in this little establishment the labour and ingenuity of European hands had been employed. In their houses they have a good deal of decent furniture, consisting of beds and bedsteads with coverings. They have also tables and large chests for their clothing; and their linen is made from the bark of a certain tree, and the manufacture of it is the employment of the elderly portion of the women. The bark is first soaked, and then beaten with square pieces of wood of the breadth of

one's hand, hollowed out into grooves, and the labour is continued until it is brought to the breadth required, in the same manner as the process is conducted in Tahiti.

Adams's house consisted of two rooms, and the windows had shutters to close at night. The younger females are employed with their brothers, under the direction of Adams, in the culture of the ground, which produced cocoa-nuts, bananas, the bread-fruit tree, yams, sweet-potatoes, and turnips. They have also plenty of hogs and goats; the woods abound with a species of wild hog, and the coasts of the island with several kinds of good fish.

“Their agricultural implements are made by themselves, from the iron supplied by the *Bounty*, which, with great labour, they beat out into spades, hatchets, &c. This was not all. The old man kept a regular journal, in which was entered the nature and quantity of work performed by each family, what each had received, and what was due on account. There was, it seem-



John Adams' House, built by himself.





ed, besides private property, a sort of general stock, out of which articles were issued on account to the several members of the community; and for mutual accommodation, exchanges of one kind of provision for another were very frequent, as salt for fresh provisions, vegetables and fruit for poultry, fish, &c.; also, when the stores of one family were low, or wholly expended, a fresh supply was raised from another, or out of the general stock, to be repaid when circumstances were more favourable."

The young girls, although they have only the example of their Tahitian mothers to follow in their dress, are modestly clothed, having generally a piece of cloth of their own manufacture reaching from the waist to the knees, and a mantle, or something of that nature, thrown loosely over the shoulders, and hanging sometimes as low as the ankles: this mantle, however, is frequently thrown aside, being used principally as a shelter for their bodies from the heat of the sun or the severity of the weather. Captain Pipon

observes, "it was pleasing to see the good taste and quickness with which they form little shades or parasols of green leaves, to place over the head or bonnets to keep the sun from their eyes. A young girl made one of these in my presence, with such neatness and alacrity as to satisfy me that a fashionable dress-maker of London would be delighted with the simplicity and elegant taste of these untaught females." The same young girl, he says, accompanied them to the boat, carrying on her shoulders, as a present, a large basket of yams, "over such roads and down such precipices as were scarcely passable by any creatures except goats, and over which we could scarcely scramble with the help of our hands. Yet with this load on her shoulders she skipped from rock to rock like a young roe."

"But," says Captain Pipon, "what delighted us most was the conviction which John Adams had impressed on the minds of these young people, of the propriety and necessity of returning thanks to the

Almighty for the many blessings they enjoy. They never omit saying grace before and after meals, and never think of touching food without asking a blessing from Him who gave it."

The visitors having supplied these poor people with some tools, kettles, and other articles, such as the high surf would allow them, with the assistance of the natives, to land, but to no great extent, the two officers again passed through the surf, with the same assistance, and took their leave.

The interesting account of Captains Sir Thomas Staines and Pipon, in 1814, produced as little effect on the government as that of Folger; and nothing more was heard of Adams and his family for twelve years nearly, when, in 1825, Captain Beechey, in the Blossom, bound on a voyage of discovery, paid a visit to Pitcairn's Island. Some whale-fishing ship, however, had touched there in the intermediate time, and left on the island a person of the name of John Buffett. "In this man," says Captain Beechey, "they have very fortunately

found an able and willing school-master; he had belonged to a ship which visited the island, and was so infatuated with the behaviour of the people, being himself naturally of a devout and serious turn of mind, that he resolved to remain among them; and, in addition to the instruction of the children, he has taken upon himself the duty of clergyman, and is the oracle of the community."

On the approach of the Blossom toward the island, a boat was observed, under all sail, hastening toward the ship, which they considered to be the boat of some whaler, but were soon agreeably undeceived by the singular appearance of her crew, which consisted of old Adams and many of the young men belonging to the island. They did not venture at once to lay hold of the ship till they had first inquired if they might come on board; and on permission being granted, they sprang up the side and shook every officer by the hand with undisguised feelings of gratification.

"The activity of the young men outstripped that of old Adams, who was, con-

sequently, almost the last to greet us. He was unusually strong and active for his age, notwithstanding the inconvenience of considerable corpulency. He was dressed in a sailor's shirt and trowsers, and a low-crowned hat, which he instinctively held in his hand until desired to put it on. He still retained his sailor's gait, doffing his hat, and smoothing down his bald forehead whenever he was addressed by the officers. It was the first time he had been on board a ship of war since the mutiny, and his mind naturally reverted to scenes which could not fail to produce a temporary embarrassment, heightened, perhaps, by the familiarity with which he found himself addressed by persons of a class with those he had been accustomed to obey. Apprehension for his safety formed no part of his thoughts: he had received too many demonstrations of the good feeling that existed toward him, both on the part of the British Government and of individuals, to entertain any alarm on that head; and as every person endea-

voured to set his mind at rest, he very soon made himself at home.

“The young men, ten in number, were tall, robust, and healthy, with good-natured countenances, which would anywhere have procured them a friendly reception; and with a simplicity of manner and a fear of doing wrong, which at once prevented the possibility of giving offence. Unacquainted with the world, they asked a number of questions, which would have applied better to persons with whom they had been intimate, and who had left them but a short time before, than to perfect strangers; and inquired after ships and people we had never heard of. Their dress, made up of the presents which had been given them by the masters and seamen of merchant ships, was a perfect caricature. Some had on long black coats, without any other article of dress, except trowsers; some shirts without coats; and others waistcoats without either; none had shoes or stockings, and only two possessed hats, neither of which seemed likely to hang long together.”

The following picture of filial affection, drawn by a careful and intelligent observer, is well worthy of insertion. Anxious to visit the houses at Pitcairn, rather than pass another night at sea, Captain Beechey determined to put off with some of his men in boats, and to accompany Adams and the islanders on shore. He says—“The difficulty of landing was more than repaid by the friendly reception we met with on the beach from Hannah Young, a very interesting young woman, the daughter of Adams. It appeared that John Buffett, who was a seafaring man, ascertained the ship was a man-of-war, and, not knowing exactly why, became so alarmed for the safety of Adams that he either could not, or would not, answer any of the interrogations which were put to him. This mysterious silence set all the party in tears, as they feared he had discovered something adverse to their patriarch. At length his obduracy yielded to their entreaties; but before he explained the cause of his conduct, the boats were seen to put off from the ship, and Hannah immedi-

16\*

ately hurried to the beach to kiss the old man's cheek, which she did with a fervency demonstrative of the warmest affection."

The whole group simultaneously expressed a wish that the visitors would stay with them several days; and on their signifying a desire to get to the village before dark, and to pitch the observatory, every article and instrument found a bearer, along a steep path which led to the village, concealed by groups of cocoa-nut trees; the females bearing their burdens over the most difficult parts without inconvenience. The village consisted of five houses, on a cleared piece of ground sloping toward the sea. While the men assisted in pitching the tent, the women employed themselves in preparing the supper. The mode of cooking was precisely that of Tahiti, by heated stones in a hole made in the ground. At young Christian's the table was spread with plates, knives, and forks. John Buffett said grace in an emphatic manner; and this is repeated every time a fresh guest sits down while the



meal is going on. So strict are they in this respect, that it is not deemed proper to touch a bit of bread without saying grace before and after it. "On one occasion," says Captain Beechey, "I had engaged Adams in conversation, and he incautiously took the first mouthful without having said grace; but before he had swallowed it he recollected himself, and feeling as if he had committed a crime, immediately put away what he had in his mouth, and commenced his prayer." Their rooms and table are lighted up by torches made of *doodoe* nuts strung upon the fibres of a palm-leaf, which form a good substitute for candles.

Although the female part of the society is highly respected, yet in one instance a distinction is kept up which in civilized countries would be deemed degrading. It is that of excluding all women from table when there is a deficiency of seats. "Far, however, from considering themselves neglected, they very good-naturedly chatted with us behind our seats," says Captain Beechey. "and flapped away the flies, and

by a gentle tap, accidentally or playfully delivered, reminded us occasionally of the honour that was done us." The women, when the men had finished, sat down to what remained.

The beds were next prepared. A mattress composed of palm-leaves was covered with native cloth made of the paper-mulberry tree, in the same manner as in Tahiti; the sheets were of the same material, and it appeared from their crackling that they were quite new from the loom, or rather the beater. The whole arrangement is stated to have been comfortable, and inviting to repose; one interruption only disturbed their sleep; this was the melody of the evening hymn, which, after the lights were put out, was chanted by the whole family in the middle of the room. At early dawn they were also awaked by their morning hymn and the family devotion; after which the islanders all set out to their several occupations. Some of the women had taken the linen of their visitors to wash; others were preparing for

the next meal; and others were employed in the manufacture of cloth.

The innocence and simplicity of these interesting persons are strongly exemplified in the following description:—  
“By our bedside had already been placed some ripe fruits; and our hats were crowned with chaplets of the fresh blossom of the *nono* or flower-tree, which the women had gathered in the freshness of the morning dew.

Their cottages are spacious, and strongly built of wood, in an oblong form, and thatched with the leaves of the palm-tree bent round the stem of a branch from the same, and laced horizontally to rafters so placed as to give a proper pitch to the roof. An upper story is appropriated to sleeping, and has four beds, one in each angle of the room, and large enough for three or four persons to sleep on. The lower is the eating-room, having a broad table with several stools placed round it. The lower room communicates with the upper by a stout ladder in the centre.

Immediately round the village are small enclosures for fattening pigs, goats, and poultry; and beyond them are the cultivated grounds producing the banana, plantain, melon, yam, taro, sweet-potatoes, *tee* tree, cloth-plant, with other useful roots, fruits, and a variety of shrubs. Every cottage has its out-house for making cloth, its baking place, its pig-sty, and its poultry-house.

During the stay of the strangers on the island, they dined sometimes with one person and sometimes with another, their meals being always the same, and consisting of baked pig, yams, and taro, and sometimes sweet-potatoes. Goats are numerous on the island, but neither their flesh nor their milk is relished by the natives. Yams constitute their principal food, either boiled, baked, or mixed with cocoa-nut made into cakes, and eaten with molasses extracted from the *tee*-root. Taro-root is no bad substitute for bread; and bananas, plantains, and *appoi* are wholesome and nutritive fruits. The common beverage is

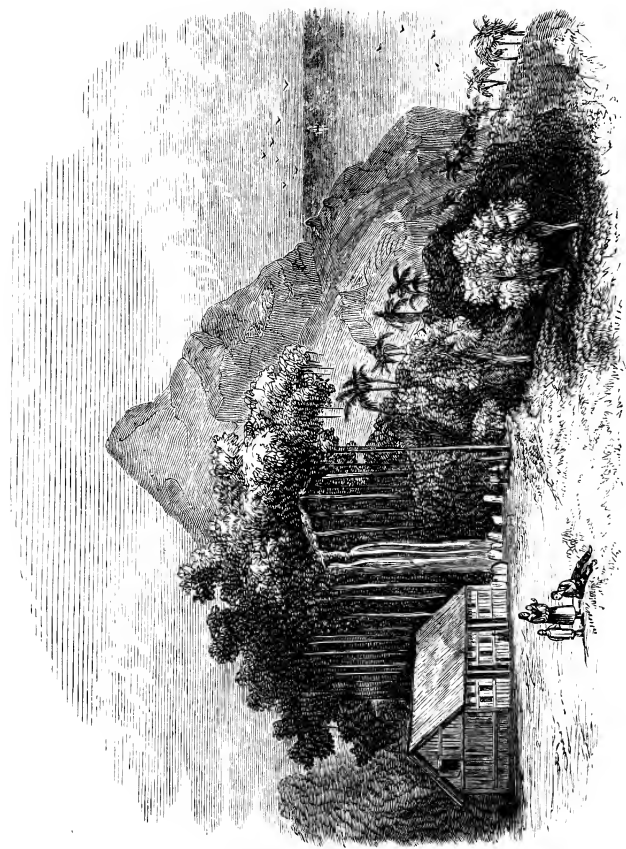
water, but they make tea from the tee-plant, flavoured with ginger, and sweetened with the juice of the sugar-cane. They but seldom kill a pig, living mostly on fruit and vegetables. With this simple diet, early rising, and taking a great deal of exercise, they are subject to few diseases; and are certainly a finer and more athletic race than is usually found among the families of mankind.

Captain Beechey observes, that Adams on no occasion neglected his usual devotions. The old man, while on board the Blossom, slept in that officer's cabin, in a retired corner of which he fell on his knees each night, to say his prayers, and was always up first in the morning for the same purpose. Captain Beechey, who made many highly valuable notes respecting the character and customs of the people twenty-seven years since, gives the following remarkable account of them:—

“During the whole time I was with them I never heard them indulge in a joke, or other levity; and the practice of it is

apt to give offence. They are so accustomed to take what is said in its literal meaning, that irony was always considered a falsehood in spite of explanation. They could not see the propriety of uttering what was not strictly true for any purpose whatever. The Sabbath day is devoted entirely to prayer, reading, and serious meditation. No boat is allowed to quit the shore, nor any work whatever to be done, cooking excepted, for which preparation is made the preceding evening. I attended their church on this day, and found the service well conducted. The prayers were read by Adams, and the lessons by Buffett; the service being preceded by hymns. The greatest devotion was apparent in every individual, and in the children there was a seriousness unknown in the younger part of our communities at home. Some family prayers, which were thought appropriate to their particular case, were added to the usual service. A sermon followed, which was very well delivered by Buffett; and lest any part of





Church and School House, Pitcairn.



it should be forgotten, or escape attention, it was read three times. The whole concluded with hymns, which were first sung by the grown people, and afterward by the children. The service thus performed was very long; but the neat and cleanly appearance of the congregation, the devotion that animated every countenance, and the innocence and simplicity of the little children, prevented the attendance from becoming wearisome. In about half an hour afterward we again assembled to prayers. They may be said to have church five times on a Sunday.

“All that remains to be said of these excellent people is, that they appear to live together in perfect harmony and contentment; to be virtuous, religious, cheerful, and hospitable beyond the limits of prudence; to be patterns of conjugal and parental affection, and to have very few vices. We remained with them many days, and their unreserved manners gave us the fullest opportunity of becoming acquainted with any faults they might have possessed.”

In March, 1829, John Adams, the patriarch of Pitcairn, was called to his rest, at the age of 65, having, as we trust, repented of his crimes and made his peace with God. He was buried in his island home.

## CHAPTER VI.

MR. NOBBS—SOME ACCOUNT OF HIS LIFE—EARL WALDEGRAVE'S LETTER—EMIGRATION TO TAHITI—QUEEN POMARÉ—RETURN OF THE EMIGRANTS—MANNER OF GOVERNMENT—DRESS AND HABITS.

THE arrival of Mr. George Hunn Nobbs at Pitcairn's Island, in the year 1828, may be considered a providential occurrence for the well-being of the inhabitants. The success of twenty-four years' labour is an abundant proof, that, under the blessing of God, this faithful teacher has educated in the principles of Christianity a community, whose simple and virtuous lives are so pre-eminent. A brief notice of his career, and of the circumstances which led him to the spot, cannot fail to be interesting.

Mr. Nobbs, who was born in Ireland in 1799, was in his youth a midshipman in the British navy, having first gone to sea when

not much more than eleven years of age. He afterward held a commission in the Chilian service under Lord Cochrane, and became lieutenant in consequence of his services.

Among other important occurrences which took place during this period, and in which Mr. Nobbs bore a part, was the courageous enterprise of cutting out the Spanish frigate *Esmeralda*, of forty guns, which was lying in the bay, under the batteries of Callao, in Peru. The capture was accomplished late at night on the 5th of November, 1820. An address from Lord Cochrane had been delivered to the marines and seamen, which concluded with an injunction that the Chilenos should act with valour, "and that the English should do as they had always done, both in their own country and elsewhere."

Lieutenant Nobbs was also engaged in a severe conflict with a Spanish gun-brig near Arauco, a fortress of Chili; when in command of a gun-boat, after sustaining the loss of forty-eight men killed and wounded, out of a party of sixty-four, he

was taken prisoner by the troops of the piratical Spanish general, Benevides.

The prisoners were all shot, with the exception of Lieutenant Nobbs and three English seamen. These four, after remaining for three weeks under sentence of death, were, quite unexpectedly, exchanged for four officers attached to Benevides's army. Mr. Nobbs had seen his fellow-prisoners, from time to time, led out to be shot, and had heard the reports of the muskets consigning them to a dreadful death.

Benevides was the son of the inspector of a prison, and had been a foot-soldier in the first army of the Chilenos in the cause of South American independence. Having been made prisoner by the royalists, he entered their army, and, being taken soon after, was sent to be tried as a deserter; but he escaped by setting fire to the hut in which he was confined, and soon distinguished himself among the royalists by his talents and bravery. Again he was taken prisoner, and sentenced to be shot in company with many others. He fell

with the rest; but, though thought to have been executed, was not; and he afterward joined the patriots. Being, however, suspected and accused by their general, San Martin, of treachery, he once more turned against them; and hence arose the atrocities with which Benevides is charged. He murdered his prisoners in cold blood; and his great delight was to invite the captured officers to an elegant entertainment, and after they had eaten and drunk, march them into his court-yard, while he stood at the window to see them shot. Some, to whom he had promised safety, he delivered over to the Indians, whose cruel customs with regard to prisoners of war he well knew; and they were cruelly murdered.

His cause having failed, he fitted out a privateer, to provide himself with food and ammunition; and at length, on the 1st of February, 1822, finding that he could hold out no longer, he attempted to escape to one of the Spanish ports in a small boat; but he was recognised, seized, and sent to Santiago, where, on the 21st, he was tried,

and sentenced to death. On the 23d he was dragged from prison, tied to the tail of a mule, and then hanged in the palace square.

Mr. Nobbs, having quitted the Chilian service, after many hardships and dangers, took passage to England in 1822, in the ship *Elizabeth*, which had shortly before touched at Pitcairn's Island. The commander of that ship, in the course of conversation, expatiated so frequently on the happiness of the people at Pitcairn, that Mr. Nobbs seriously intended to go thither, if his life should be spared; and he set out, with this object in view, in the beginning of 1826. His wish was to lead a life of peace and usefulness to his fellow-creatures. He had at that period been four times round the world: and he left England with the full and avowed intention of going to Pitcairn's Island. He was detained for a long time in Calcutta; from whence, after a very narrow escape from shipwreck in the Straits of Sunda, he crossed the Pacific to Valparaiso. There, and afterward at Callao, he suffered a fur-

ther detention; but ultimately he succeeded in leaving Callao in a frail bark of eighteen tons burden, having expended one hundred and fifty pounds sterling on the vessel and her outfit. He was accompanied by only one other person, an American, named Noah Bunker, and arrived at Pitcairn in October, 1828. His companion died soon afterward; and the vessel afforded the materials for a house for Mr. Nobbs. John Adams received him with kindness; and after Adams's death in March, 1829, Mr. Nobbs, who had been engaged in keeping school from the period of his arrival, was appointed the teacher.

When he first entered upon his charge, the number of inhabitants was only sixty-eight. From that time he has been with them, through evil report and good report, as their pastor, surgeon, and school-master, with the exception of a few months, when he was removed from the island, in consequence of the intrusion of a Mr. Joshua Hill, who arrived from Tahiti in 1832. This person, who was then about sixty years of age, informed the inhabitants that



he had been authorized by the British government to reside at Pitcairn's Island; when in fact he had received no such authority. Mr. Nobbs appears to have been of too plain and straight-forward a character to suit this new-comer, whose presence among the people caused much trouble; as he divided their little society into two factions; one siding with him, the other with the constitution as it was. At length, partly by splendid promises, and partly by instilling into the simple minds around him the fear of giving offence to the government at home, whom he affected to represent, he enlisted some of the natives against the three Europeans, and succeeded in excluding them and their families, for a time, from the island.

Happily, the Hill dynasty was not destined to last long. He had given out that he was a very near relative of the Duke of Bedford, and that the duchess seldom rode out in her carriage without him. But while the people listened to his magnificent accounts of himself and his noble friends, who should arrive on their shores,

in the ship *Actæon*, in 1837, but Captain Lord Edward Russell, a son of the Duke of Bedford !

A spectre could not have been a more appalling visitant to the so-called relative, who would have been forthwith taken from the place by Lord Edward Russell ; but this could not have been done without orders. Soon afterward, Captain H. W. Bruce arrived in the *Imogene*, and carried off Mr. Hill, landing him, in 1838, safe at Valparaiso.

Mr. Nobbs, during his absence from Pitcairn, was at the Gambier Islands, where he employed himself as a teacher, biding his time in patience, and employing, in his own homely and useful manner, the talent intrusted to him.

In about nine months after Mr. Nobbs had been at the Gambier Islands, the people of Pitcairn recalled him, with the other Europeans ; the request for their return to the island being accompanied by an offer of payment of all their expenses ; and they returned accordingly, without further delay.

Having thus introduced Mr. Nobbs to our readers, we return to our narrative. In the year 1830, the Hon. W. Waldegrave, (now Earl Waldegrave,) then captain of a British man-of-war, touched at Pitcairn. From him we have an account of the state of the island five years later than the last testimony, and one year after the death of Adams. From it we learn that the kind providence of God had provided for the vacancy created by the death of the father of the Pitcairn family, and that the religious training of the rising generation had not been neglected.

“ Pitcairn’s Island, March 17, 1830.

“ On the 15th of March I landed at this island, and was friendly and hospitably received by George Nobbs, and all the inhabitants. My officers and men were most kindly treated at breakfast and dinner, and slept in their houses. My crew received a supply of cocoa-nuts and fruits. I had the gratification to hear William Quintal answer several questions as to his knowledge of the redemption in Christ,

and of the different habits of the Jews, their sects and diseases, perfectly, clearly, and distinctly; showing that he understood their meaning. I also heard two little girls repeat part of a hymn, which showed to me how well they had been instructed; and lastly, I attended at their evening prayers. I can only trust that the God who preserves this island and its inhabitants from foreign injury, may keep them alive in the true faith of Jesus Christ, in purity and peace, so that each person, at his death, may quit this world in the expectation of being for ever in heaven, through the merits of Jesus Christ. It was with very great satisfaction that I observed the Christian simplicity of these natives. They appeared to have no guile. Their cottages were open to all, and all were welcome to their food; the pig, the fowl, was killed and dressed instantly; the beds were ready; each was willing to show any and every part of the island. Before they began a meal, all joined hands in the attitude of prayer, with eyes raised to heaven, and one recited a simple grace,

grateful for the present food, but beseeching spiritual nourishment. Each answered, Amen, and after a pause the meal began. At the conclusion, another grace was offered up. Should any one arrive during the repast, all ceased to eat. The new guest said grace, to which each repeated, Amen, and then the meal continued."

There having been the fear of a dearth of water at Pitcairn in 1831, the people, eighty-seven in number, were removed from the island, by order of the British government. On being landed at Tahiti, on March 23d, they were well received by Queen Pomaré.

Captain Sandilands, of the ship *Comet*, gave an interesting report of this case of emigration, and of the manner in which the voyagers were welcomed by Queen Pomaré, who was then the ruling sovereign of Tahiti. At her majesty's desire, Captain Sandilands landed the people of Pitcairn at her residence, about three miles from the anchorage, where houses were provided for them, until she gave up

for their temporary use a large dwelling belonging to herself in the town of Papiété. A tract of rich land was also marked out, as a desirable territory for their future residence. Having assembled the chiefs of the district, the queen, in a speech, formally announced that she had assigned this land to her guests from Pitcairn, giving directions at the same time that her people should immediately commence the construction of houses for the new-comers. In showing this hospitality she appears to have consulted her own kind disposition, and also to have endeavoured to fulfil the promises given by her father, the late King Pomaré, who had promised them welcome and protection in case of need. Nor was this good feeling confined to the queen. Much regard was generally shown by the Tahitians, who sought out with diligence whether there might not be relations among their guests. In one instance a woman came a considerable distance, and discovered in one of the four remaining women a long-absent sister. It will be remembered that the

mutineers had taken their wives from this island.

The fact of Queen Pomaré having been engaged in a troublesome civil war at the time of the visit of the islanders, places her kindness and attention to them in a still more pleasing light.

This is the Queen Pomaré who, early in 1843, complained to Queen Victoria of the proceedings of the French in threatening her peace and government. There is much pathos and simplicity in the Tahitian queen's mode of address to her "Sister and Friend." The following are extracts from her letter literally translated :

" Tahiti, January 23, 1843.

" My dear Friend and Sister, Queen Victoria, Queen of Great Britain,—Health and peace to you! And saved may you be by Jehovah, the Foundation of our power as queens of our respective countries. We dwell in peace by the arrangements made by our predecessors.

" This is my speech to you, my sister friend. Commiserate me in my affliction

in my helplessness, in which my nation is involved with France.

“The existing protectorate government of France in my dominions I do not acknowledge. I know nothing of what my chiefs and the French Consul had done before I wrote to you by Captain Jones, I being absent at Raiaté.”

After bemoaning the dependent state into which she had been thrown by French intervention, and the political movements of her chiefs, she proceeds:—

“And now, my friend, think of me, have compassion on me, and assist me; let it be powerful, let it be timely, and saving, that I may be reinstated in my government.

“Have compassion on me in my present trouble, in my affliction, and great helplessness. Do not cast me away, assist me quickly, my friend. I run to you for refuge, to be covered under your great shadow, the same as afforded to my fathers by your fathers, who are now dead, and whose kingdoms have descended to us the weaker vessels.

“I renew that agreement. Let it be



lasting and for ever. Let its continuance extend not only to ourselves and children, but to our children's children. My friend, do not by any means separate our friendship. This is my true wish.

“I now deliver up to you, my friend, my last effort. My only hope of being restored is in you. Be quick to help me, for I am nearly dead. I am like a captive pursued by a warrior and nearly taken, whose spear is close to me. The time is very nigh, when I fear I shall lose my government and my land.

“My friend, send quickly a large ship of war to assist me. A French ship of war is daily expected here. Speedily send a ship of war to protect me, and I shall be saved. It is my wish that the admiral may speedily come to Tahiti. If he cannot speedily come, I wish a large ship of war may come just at this present time.

“Continually send here your ships of war. Let not one month pass away without one, until all my present difficulties are over.

“Health and peace to you! may you be

blessed, my sister friend, Queen of Great Britain, &c.

“POMARÉ.

*“Queen of Tahiti.”*”

Queen Pomaré, however, and her people were doomed to feel the power of the French, who have erected a fort, commanding the entrance to the harbour of Tahiti. They have a frigate and a war steamer anchored there, and a military force on the island. The queen, who is now upward of fifty years of age, is married; and although she has children of her own, she adopted Reuben Nobbs, the pastor's eldest son; but she did not remove him from the care of his parents.

To return to the Pitcairn emigrants at Tahiti. Their health suffered in the new climate, and the dissipation of the place proved distasteful to a well-ordered Christian community. It was owing, partly to this, and partly to the love of country, which is a powerful principle at Pitcairn, that the people soon found their way back to their own home. When the British ship

Challenger touched at Tahiti in 1833, it was found that all whom death had spared had returned to the island of Pitcairn. Some had yielded to the temptations to intemperance. Sickness also had become prevalent among them, and had carried off twelve; and five died almost immediately after their return.

No real grounds having existed for deserting Pitcairn in 1831, very serious consideration will doubtless be given to the subject, before any plans are projected for the removal of the inhabitants from this island to another, on the presumed score of necessity. Should there be scarcity and want of room, in consequence of the increase of population, it would surely not be necessary to remove all the islanders. Captain Fanshawe, who visited the islanders in 1849, observed, "I could not trace in any of them the slightest desire to remove elsewhere. On the contrary, they expressed the greatest repugnance to do so, while a sweet-potato remained to them; a repugnance much enhanced by their emigration to Tahiti about eighteen years ago."

If found needful, a certain amount of emigration might surely take place, formed on the principle of serving the interests of others, as well as their own, by means of Christian instruction and example. Should they go to other islands of the Pacific as missionaries, to bear to them the word of God, Pitcairn might be made a blessing to many of these beautiful gems of the ocean. The mercies of God are given to us, not to be selfishly hoarded, but to be diffused in streams of blessing to others.

In the little work, entitled, "The Mutiny of the Bounty," it is remarked, that the Pitcairners have already proceeded from the simple canoe to row-boats; and that the progress from this to small-decked vessels is simple and natural. It is to be hoped that they may thus, at some future period, be the means of spreading Christianity, and, consequently, civilization, throughout the numerous groups of islands in the Southern Pacific.

By the last account in the autumn of 1852, the number of persons inhabiting the island was 170; namely, 88 males, and

82 females. All are natives of the place except three, George H. Nobbs, John Buffett, and John Evans. The only surnames on the island are eight; namely, Adams, Christian, McCoy, Quintal, Young, Buffett, Evans, and Nobbs. Brown, Martin, and Williams had no children; nor had any of the Tahitian men.

The original division of the island was into nine parts, between the nine mutineers; it is now subdivided into twenty-one, the present number of families. Some little misunderstandings occasionally arise as to boundaries; but these, as well as such other matters of dispute as now and then occur, are generally soon settled by the chief magistrate and the two counsellors.

The owners of this island avow a hearty allegiance to the Queen of England. Her majesty's birth-day is observed as an occasion of much joy. All the people assemble near the church in holiday apparel; the bell is set ringing, and old and young unite in singing loyal songs in honour of the day. Not only the cheerful bell is heard, but it has been usual to introduce

the deep-mouthed gun to assist at the solemnity. The history of this gun is curious. It once belonged to the *Bounty*, and was fished up from the bottom of the sea in 1845, with one of its companions which had been spiked, and which was therefore useless. The better of the two, after remaining many fathoms deep in the sea for five-and-fifty years, is somewhat honey-combed, and, when brought into play, is used with caution.\* The scene presented by the assemblage of the people on the queen's birth-day has been depicted by a poet of their own. The following stanzas by Mr. Nobbs, in one of his national songs, produce a pleasing sketch:—

Ha! that flash yon grove illuming,

Long impervious to the sun;

Now the quick report comes booming

From the ocean-rescued gun.

Now the bell is gayly ringing,

Where yon white-robed train is seen;

Now they all unite in singing

GOD PRESERVE OUR GRACIOUS QUEEN.

---

\* By late advices from the island, however, we hear that in 1853, by the bursting of this gun, one man was killed and two others severely wounded.

In the year 1849, a Frenchman, of a military air, and partly military costume, arriving, with some other travellers, was courteously received by the islander. With the politeness characteristic of his countrymen, he soon engaged in conversation with Mr. Nobbs, and, in imperfect English, inquired, Whether the people of Pitcairn had heard of Prince Louis Napoleon, and the French Republic? and, as the next question, Would they enlist themselves under it? Suiting the action to the word, he took a paper for signatures from his pocket.

He was answered by Mr. Nobbs quietly pointing to the English flag, which waved in the wind over their heads. The pastor assured him that they knew all about Louis Napoleon and the French Republic; but that all the people on the island were faithful subjects of the Queen of England. The Frenchman again bowed, begged pardon, returned the paper to his pocket, and explained, that "he did not know Pitcairn was a colony."

Though it is not a colony, it is entirely

English; and a more loyal and united community, as a whole, cannot be found in any of the colonies or dependencies of the British empire. The English union-jack is hoisted on all grand occasions; and to England the people would look for protection should any attempt be made to disturb their position. But who would think of disturbing so inoffensive and so poor a settlement?

Their leading man is a magistrate, who is elected on the first of January every year, by a general vote of males and females who have attained the age of eighteen years. Married persons, both males and females, though they may be under that age, are entitled to vote. Two counsellors are chosen at the same time, one elected by the magistrate, the other by the people. When there is any dispute to be settled, which cannot well be decided by the magistrate, or by the magistrate and counsellors combined, a jury of seven is called, to whom the matter is referred. Then should the matter not be satisfactorily arranged, it stands over until



the arrival of a British man-of-war; and there is no appeal against the Captain's decision. During the interval the matter drops, and no ill-feeling remains.

It is a principle with them never to let the sun go down upon their wrath. What an example is conveyed in the practical adherence to this scriptural rule! How simple and effectual a mode of adjusting differences, and preventing the growth of all uncharitableness!

“The wise will let their anger cool,  
At least before 'tis night;  
But in the bosom of a fool  
It burns till morning-light.”

The office of magistrate is not coveted; it being in some respects an invidious one. It sometimes happens that the respected individual for whom this honour is designed would, rather than accept it, kill a hog for the public good. The duties of the magistracy are always fulfilled without fear or favour.

With respect to the general appearance of the islanders, in their features and complexion, as well as their dress and

manners, they are said to resemble the people of an English village of the better order. A few of them are, however, rather darker than the generality of Europeans, partaking more of their half-Tahitian descent.

A few words about dress. The women generally wear a full petticoat, and over that a loose gown, with a handkerchief thrown over the shoulders. A wreath of flowers is often worn round the head. There are many large trees on the island, which produce small white flowers, much esteemed for their fragrance; and of the flowers of this tree, or a mixture of them with bright red flowers, the females make their wreaths. Their hair is worn in bands, and is brought up in a very becoming manner into a knot skillfully twisted behind.

The men wear short trowsers, the legs of which are cut off two or three inches above the knee. A shirt, and a cap or hat, complete their costume. They seldom wear shoes or stockings, except on Sundays.

The people live principally on vegetables, having meat about once a week ; and each family gets fish once, and, occasionally, twice a week. The fishing is difficult and precarious, as they have to seek the fish in very deep water, often at the dept of 1000 or more feet.

At the commencement of the yam-digging season, in April, when there is much hard work in prospect, and they require better food, and more of it, each family having a hog kills it. This is the period for the people to indulge, beyond their usual custom, in animal food.

There are three burial-places on the island. The funerals are always attended by every member of the community, even if the deceased should be but an infant.

The children are early instructed in swimming ; and many of their sports are in the water. They also learn to thread the difficult passes of the rocks like so many young goats. The personal strength and activity of the men, as described by Captain Beechey, as he observed them in

1825, do not seem to be diminished at the present day.

Two of the strongest on the island, George Young and Edward Quintal, have each carried at one time, without inconvenience, a kedge anchor, two sledge-hammers, and an armourer's anvil, amounting to upward of six hundred weight. Quintal, at another time, carried a boat twenty-eight feet in length. Their activity on land has been already mentioned. I shall merely give another instance, which was supplied by Lieut. Belcher, who was admitted to be a most active officer, and who did not consider himself behindhand in such exploits. He offered to accompany one of the natives down a difficult descent, in spite of the warning given by his friend that he was unequal to the task. They, however, commenced the perilous descent; but Mr. Belcher was obliged to confess his inability to proceed, while his companion, perfectly assured of his own footing, offered him his hand, and said he would conduct him to the bottom, if he would depend on him for safety. In the

water they are almost as much at home as on land, and can remain nearly a whole day in the sea. They frequently swam around their little island, a distance of about five miles. When the sea beat heavily on the island, they have plunged into the breakers and swum to sea beyond them. This they sometimes did, pushing a barrel of water before them when it could be got off in no other way; and in this manner we procured several tons of water without a single cask being stove.

The Rev. Wm. Armstrong, late Chaplain at Valparaiso, in a letter, dated October, 1849, stated that an English man-of-war, the Pandora, had lately arrived, direct from Pitcairn's, and that the commander, Lieut. Wood, and the officers, had given the most pleasing account of the happy state in which their little community were living. They were described as a remarkably strong and healthy people. For instance, a young woman, eighteen years of age, had been accustomed to carry on her shoulders a hundred pounds weight of yams over hills and precipitous

places, and for a considerable distance, where one unaccustomed to such exercise would scarcely be able to scramble. A man, sixty years old, with ease carried the surgeon of the Pandora up a steep ascent from the landing-place, which he had himself in vain attempted to mount, the ground being very slippery from recent rains; and the officer being a large man, six feet high, rendered it the more surprising. Indeed, Lieut. Wood said he was himself borne aloft in the arms of a damsel, and carried up the hill with the utmost facility.

## CHAPTER VII.

GOOD CONDUCT OF VISITORS—THE PITCAIRNER'S DAY—  
HOUSEHOLD ARRANGEMENTS—TEMPERANCE—LITERATURE  
—TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS—MUSICAL CLASS—SERVICES  
OF MR. NOBBS—TESTIMONY—LETTERS—THE SCHOOL.

FROM the date of the first intelligence respecting the inhabitants of Pitcairn, there has been no variation in the character given of them. As they were, in purity and peace, those two great essentials of human happiness, when Sir Thomas Staines visited the island, in 1814, so they are now, in 1853,—the same contented, kind, and God-fearing race. Nor need we feel surprised at this, however delighted we may be with the picture. They are sensible of the treasure which they possess in the Bible, and take it for their guide in the performance of their duty toward God and their neighbour.

The difficulty of landing on the island,

and the want of harbour and anchorage, though at first sight a disadvantage, may have proved a blessing in preserving these simple-minded people from the baneful effects too likely to arise from crews remaining, as a matter of course, among them. As it is, the behaviour both of officers and men who visit the place, is stated to be most exemplary. No encouragement is given to evil; and no instance can be quoted of the transgression, on the part of visitors, of the sacred law of hospitality. On the contrary, the good habits, and moral and religious conduct of the islanders, do not fail to produce, by the power of example, a wholesome influence on strangers.

If it be asked, how the people pass their time, and what they can have to do in a spot whose utmost limit is barely four miles and a half in circumference, the question may be answered by a description of the Pitcairn Islanders' ordinary day.

They rise early, generally as soon as it is light. Each house has early family prayer, preceded by Scripture reading;



two chapters of the Bible being generally selected for the morning, and one for the evening. After some slight refreshment, for they have only two regular meals a day, the business of the Pitcairner's day begins.

The young people are sent to school, in pursuance of a law of the island; and after the "graver hours, that bring constraint, and sweeten liberty," they have their needful food, and their childish amusements. They are fond of flying kites, and of games at ball; though the want of room on the island imposes a limit on the nature and number of the out-of-door diversions both of young and old.

The occupation of the men consists in cultivating their land; looking after their gardens; building and improving their houses, which are neat, clean, and commodious; rearing stock; fencing in their plantations; manufacturing hats from the leaf of the palm; making fancy boxes, &c., which they keep in store for barter with whalers, or other vessels which may call at Pitcairn for refreshment.

At about twelve o'clock they have a plain and substantial breakfast, or dinner, consisting of yams and potatoes, made into a kind of bread, for which they do not fail to ask God's blessing, and to render Him thanks.

“O Hand of bounty, largely spread,  
By whom our every want is fed;  
Whate'er we touch, or taste, or see,  
We owe them all, O Lord, to Thee.”

So strict is their observance of the duty of saying grace before and after meals, that “we do not know,” says Captain Beechey, “of any instance in which it has been forgotten.”

Fishing for a kind of cod, gray mullet, and red snapper, though no very hopeful pursuit in the deep water round the island, occasionally forms part of the day's employment; nor of the day only; for sometimes they go forth at night among the rocks close to the sea, or row out in a canoe, and, taking a light, attract the fish, which they strike with a pole, armed with five barbed prongs, and so take.

Suppose, however, the islander returned from his day's labour to his supper, at about seven o'clock in the evening. Except once or twice a week, no fish, meat, or poultry will be found to grace the board, but yams, and sweet-potatoes, and such humble fare as has been prepared by the females of the family. For the women have their daily tasks to perform; some preparing the ground, taking up yams, and doing other work requiring diligence and strength. There being no servants, the wives or daughters make and mend the clothes, and attend to all the requisite household affairs. They also manufacture *tappa*, or native cloth, from the bark of the "anti," or paper-mulberry, which is rolled up, and soaked in water, and then beaten out with wooden mallets, and spread forth to dry.

The cooking is performed by the females. Their cooking-places are apart from their dwellings; and there are no fire-places in any of the houses. Baked, not roasted, meats are the substantial luxuries

of the table at Pitcairn. Their ovens, like those at Tahiti, described by Captain Cook, are formed with stones in the ground. Captain Beechey says that an oven is made in the ground, sufficiently large to contain a good-sized pig, and is lined throughout with stones nearly equal in size. These, having been made as hot as possible, are covered with some broad leaves, generally of the ti-plant, and on them is placed the meat. If it be a pig, its inside is lined with heated stones, as well as the oven. Such vegetables as are to accompany the meal are then placed round the meat that is to be dressed. The whole is covered with leaves of the ti-plant, and buried beneath a heap of earth, straw, or rushes and boughs, which by a little use become matted into one mass. In about an hour and a quarter, the meat is sufficiently cooked.

There is much wisdom in the arrangement, regarding the absence of fire-places from their wooden cottages. They are also sparing in their use of lights in gene-

ral. They have no candles, but use oil, and torches made with nuts of the doodoe-tree. They have no glass for the windows. The shutters, which serve the purpose of admitting light and air, are closed in bad weather. For the most part pure water, but, now and then, tea, constitutes their drink. Cocoa-nut milk, and water sweetened with syrup extracted from the bruised sugar-cane, vary the drinks of these temperate people. *No wines or spirits are admitted in the island, except in small quantities for medicinal purposes.* The water which they use does not come from springs, (there are none in the island,) but from reservoirs, or tanks, neatly excavated, which collect the rain. Of these there are five or six, holding from three to four thousand gallons of water each, sufficient not only for the consumption of the inhabitants, but for supplies to whalers, and other vessels.

With respect to literary occupation, they are all well educated. The young men are instructed in navigation, and some of the lower branches of mathematics.

A new regulation has been recently made for the distribution of all their books among the families,—they having been before kept as public property,—as it was believed they would be more read and valued in that way; and for which purpose shelves have been put up in all their houses, which are very neat and comfortable, though more like ship-cabins than dwelling-houses. The reason they give for this arrangement is, that they are in the habit of walking into each other's houses with the same freedom as into their own, and, taking up a book, will sit down and read it aloud, or not, as they feel disposed.

With the employment found by the inhabitants, in the ways of industry above described, and the advantage and amusement derived from reading—for they have many books of general literature, as well as publications of a directly religious character—the day cannot be said to hang heavy on hand in Pitcairn's Island.

When the shades of evening draw on, the islanders, one and all, again remember

Him, who is about their path and about their bed, and spieth out all their ways. Nor are they slow to acknowledge His claims, who expects the grateful homage of his intelligent creatures, and whose protection and blessing they beg in family worship, before they lie down to sleep. And then, without any thought of locks, bolts, or bars,—for they have no such defences, nor any need of them,—each may feel at night a happy confidence in the protection and blessing of that gracious Lord, who has guided and preserved them through the day.

“Guarded by Thee, I lay me down,  
My sweet repose to take;  
For I through thee securely sleep,  
Through thee in safety wake.”

But if they are active and cheerful on common days, how great is their pleasure on descrying from the “Look-out Ridge” of their sea-girt rock, a sail on the edge of the horizon. How different are the feelings of the present islanders from those which possessed the inhabitants fifty or sixty years since! Then they sought a

place of concealment, when they perceived a vessel heave in sight; now they rejoice at her approach.

A short account of the reception of a ship on their shores will interest the reader.

It is customary for each family, in turn, to have the privilege of receiving as their guest the captain of any vessel, whether a man-of-war or a whaler, which may happen to arrive. On her appearance sufficiently near, the master of the house, whose turn it is to be the host, goes off in a canoe, and, after satisfactory answers to questions as to the health of those on board, he ascends the ship's side; the canoe, which is but a light affair, being quickly hauled up after him. Most important are these inquiries; for if the small-pox, or any other infectious disorder, should find its way into the island, dreadful, indeed, would be the result. But when it is "all right," the ship's boat being lowered, the captain, and five or six men, conducted by the islander, who steers in the difficult parts, proceed to Bounty Bay. Some persons are always



ready on the rocks to give a signal for the safe entrance of the boat, without which precaution serious accidents would frequently occur.

The captain and his company, attended by a number of the natives, who have descended from the village to the little beach, now ascend the hill, and generally walk first to the school-house, where they obtain a sight of the island-register, and examine the shipping-list, in which they enter the name of their own vessel; whence she has come, and whither she is bound. After some preliminary conversation, the representatives of the several families, one at least from each house, assemble; and after a hearty welcome, and the interchange of friendly expressions, inquire what is wanted for the vessel, as to vegetables, refreshments, &c. A list is handed in of the articles in demand, such as yams, sweet-potatoes, &c., the price of these goods being always the same in time of scarcity as of plenty. The inhabitants then, in their turn, inquire of the captain what he has to dispose of. This is gene

rally found to be coarse cotton cloths, soap, oil, &c., with perhaps some small quantities of lead, or iron. While the captain is engaged in conversation with the teacher, on matters of mutual and general interest, the health of the queen being the first in the series of questions and answers, the inhabitants retire, and consult among themselves what each person's proportion of the captain's wants amounts to. This being settled, each repairs to his own plantation to procure his part, which, in every instance is, as far as possible, an equal share from each family.

Such is the reliance placed by visitors on the honesty and integrity of the islanders, that in no case does the captain think it necessary to be present at the measurement of the articles required. One of the islanders is appointed to remain at the market-place, to take an account of the things sent on board; and the mode of dealing is always cheerfully acceded to by the authorities of the vessel. The articles are removed from the market-place to Bounty Bay, where they are deposited

at the captain's risk, and from whence they are conveyed in boats; or, if the surf is heavy, the goods are packed in casks, which are conducted by the natives swimming with them through the heavy surf to the boats lying outside the broken water.

It has been stated, in the letter of a visitor to the island, that it is the custom on festive occasions, when the captain and his friends from the ship are entertained at dinner, for the women to attend upon the party at table. This is the exception to the general rule; as, usually, when there are no visitors, the men and women in a family sit down together. But the attendance of the females on strangers, and on their own relatives, has been misapprehended by some travellers as a mark of barbarism. Now, there must be some to wait; strangers must be hospitably served, and the younger women do these honours of their island in the most attentive and good-humoured manner. Here, again, the delicacy and good sense of the islanders are to be admired. It will be

allowed that for husbands and brothers to be attending upon their female relatives and newly-landed guests, would be a less desirable and becoming mode than that at present adopted.

In March, 1850, five passengers of the bark *Noble*, bound for California, were left by a mischance on Pitcairn; the vessel from which they had landed having been blown off from the island during the night. During the three weeks of their detention, which turned out to be a very agreeable visit, the strangers, who had no property about them but the clothes which they had on, received every mark of sympathy and friendship. One of these gentlemen, Mr. Walter Brodie, employed himself chiefly in gathering materials for an account of the island and its hospitable inhabitants, which was afterward published.

Two of the other guests, the Baron de Thierry, and Mr. Hugh Carleton, especially the latter, applied themselves to the task of teaching the whole of the adult population to sing. Fortunately, the ba-

ron happened to have a tuning-fork in his pocket; and the people, whose efforts in psalmody in church had been noticed as somewhat imperfect, caught with delight at the idea of a little musical instruction. They proved remarkably intelligent, not one among the number being deficient in ear, while many had exceedingly fine voices. Their progress surpassed the most sanguine expectations of the teacher. On the fourth day they sang through a catch in four parts with great steadiness. For people who had hitherto been unaware even of the existence in nature of *harmony*, the performance was very remarkable.

With regard to Mr. Brodie, it is worthy of remark, that though he had been thus detained at Pitcairn, he arrived at San Francisco, in California, twenty-eight days before the *Noble*, which had been ninety-three days from Pitcairn, the crew having suffered great privations from want of provision and water. His disappointment, which appeared so grievous, in missing his ship at Pitcairn, ended in his escaping the miseries to which the people

in the Noble had been exposed, and in reckoning those few weeks in the island as among the happiest of his life. Thus that which appeared to be a misfortune proved to be a blessing, both to the visitors and their entertainers. Thus God often is conferring mercies upon us, even when thwarting our plans and seeming to inflict misfortune.

Mr. Nobbs, it will be borne in mind, had spent the earlier years of his life in naval and military service. After his arrival at Pitcairn, however, he devoted himself as teacher and pastor to the intellectual and moral culture of the island families. He had not at any time been set apart to the office of the ministry, although he had been long looked up to by the little community at Pitcairn. As they had grown up with a deep sense of loyalty to Britain, the land of their fathers, and had been trained in the principles of the Church of England, they very naturally looked to England and the English church for guidance and fostering care. Desirous that Mr. Nobbs should be ordained to the work

of the ministry, they wrote the following letter to the chaplain of a man-of-war, who had written to them and referred to charges which had been made against the islanders and their teacher:—

“Pitcairn’s Island, South Pacific Ocean,  
“July 20, 1847.

“REVEREND SIR,—We received, on the 26th of February last, your acceptable present and truly valuable letter, which, so far from giving offence, is highly appreciated, and deposited in the archives of the island, to be referred to at public meetings and other suitable occasions. We extremely regret the circumstances which frustrated your intended visit, for we should be in the highest degree delighted to have made your acquaintance, received your advice, and, we trust, in some measure, your approbation; for we can assure you the report of our splitting into parties, &c. is incorrect. A few years since a partially deranged impostor, named Joshua Hill, *alias* Lord Hill, came here, and made much disturbance; but he was

removed by order of the British Government. Respecting the letter of which you saw a copy in the Oahu paper, so far from expressing the sentiments of the community, not more than three persons were acquainted with its contents. The rest of us were ignorant of its existence till we saw it published in the above-mentioned paper. That part of it reflecting on our respected and worthy pastor has been publicly retracted, and an apology sent down to the Sandwich Islands to be inserted in the same paper in which the letter referred to appeared. Public worship has never been discontinued, in fact, since the death of Mr. Adams, in 1829. We cannot call to mind six Sabbaths in which divine worship, in accordance with the rules of the Established Church, has not been performed twice in the day. Whatever few exceptions there may have been, the cause was either the ill health of the teacher, or the unavoidable necessity of his attending on those who were very ill, or badly hurt. Moreover, we have a Bible-class for the adults every



Wednesday, and public school for the children five days a week. The number of children who attend school at present is fifty-three; they are all instructed, and make good progress. We have been thus explicit in the foregoing particulars, that you may understand the actual state of affairs among us. As British subjects, to honour and obey our most gracious sovereign, and all who are in authority under her, is our bounden duty, and we trust will ever be our privilege.

“And now, reverend sir, we would bespeak your attention and interest for the following items:—The whole community are members of the Church of England, and the service of that church is duly performed twice every Sabbath; but we are much in want of Prayer-books, Psalms, and Watts’s Hymns for public use. The procuring some for us would be conferring a most essential service. Elementary books for the younger classes in the school, and Walkinghame’s, or other books on arithmetic, for the more advanced scholars, are greatly needed. In short, the want

of school requisites generally, impedes the progress of the rising generation.

“The next thing we would respectfully state our want of, is a medicine-chest; for there is a vast amount of sickness among us, and serious accidents frequently occur. Our teacher possesses considerable skill as a physician, but his knowledge is often rendered comparatively valueless from the want of the necessary remedies.

“One thing more, before we conclude, we earnestly present to your consideration; and as it comes in an especial manner within the province of your holy office, we would indulge the hope that our application will be attended with success. The case in question is this: Our teacher, who has been with us for nineteen years in that capacity, and whose services to us are invaluable, has never received the license or sanction of the proper authority in that church of which we are a component part. This circumstance is a source of much anxiety, both to him and us, and as our number amounts to 138, (71 males and 67 females,) and is rapidly increasing, we do

most urgently, but most respectfully, solicit your application to the proper quarter for a pastoral letter, inducting or sanctioning our teacher into the holy office he has for so long a space of time unceasingly, untiringly, and worthily filled on this island. That he is deserving such a mark of ecclesiastical approbation and favour, is justly and cheerfully acknowledged by the whole community; and of the great benefit which will accrue to us therefrom, no one can be more competent to judge than yourself.

“Hoping that this our public letter may obtain your favourable regard, we beg leave to subscribe ourselves,

“Your much obliged, very humble friends.

“CHARLES CHRISTIAN, *Magistrate*.

SIMON YOUNG, *Counsellor*.

JOHN ADAMS, *Counsellor*.

ISAAC CHRISTIAN.

FREDERICK YOUNG.

MAYHEW YOUNG.

ABRAHAM QUINTAL.”

All these names will be recognised as

those of descendants of the mutineers. Among them will be observed the name of John Adams. He is a grandson of the original John Adams, and is described by Mr. Nobbs, and other competent judges, as a young man of much talent and information.

The islanders also addressed a letter to Captain Charles Hope, who commanded the *Thalia* in the Pacific, in 1844, but who was prevented, much to his regret, from paying them a visit. He, however, sent them some useful presents. In their letter of acknowledgment to Captain Hope, is the following passage:—"Our number now amounts to one hundred and thirty-eight, and is rapidly increasing. Our teacher, who is a worthy man, and whose services are of great value to us, has never received the sanction or license of the proper authorities in the church to qualify him for the very important and prominent situation he fills. He is most anxious, and we are no less so, that he should be more formally inducted into the office of pastor."

Mr. Nobbs had been between eighteen

and nineteen years in the midst of the people, when the above letters were written; and he had maintained and advanced among them, those good principles with which the very name of Pitcairn has been so long and so happily associated.

As their religion has been full of good fruits, so it has been of a quiet, sensible, and unostentatious kind. Inquiry having been made of Mr. Nobbs by some persons in the United States of America, a few years since, as to any instances of sudden and extraordinary conversion, which might have fallen under his notice, he replied, that his experience did not furnish any such cases from Pitcairn. In answer to the questions put to him, he remarked, in reference to the death-bed of Polly Adams, which will be found noticed in a subsequent page, as well as to some other instances:

“Had inquiry been made for examples of HAPPY DEATHS, I could have replied with unmitigated satisfaction; for I have seen many depart this life, not only happy, but triumphant. And herein is, I think, the test of the Christian character; for when

we see a person, who for a number of years has not only in word but in deed adorned the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things, brought by sickness or casualty to the confines of the eternal world, about to enter the precincts of the silent grave, yet with unabated energy and fervour proclaim his hope of a glorious resurrection; when we see a person suffering the most acute pain, exhorting and encouraging others to pursue the same path he has trod; telling the love of God to his soul, and of his desire to depart, that he may enter into the presence of his Redeemer; when we witness such unwavering confidence, amid such intense sufferings; and when the sanity of the patient is undoubted, can we hesitate to say at the demise of such an one, 'Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his!' It has been my felicity to witness several departures of this description within a few years: two from accidents, one from a cancer in the breast, one shortly after child-birth, and one from disease of the heart. All these died in the faith. Some of the dis-

eases were lingering, others rapidly fatal; but in all cases the subjects were ‘strong in faith, giving glory to God.’”

It is pleasing to notice the terms of respect and regard in which the teacher is mentioned in the several communications from the island. Indeed, many valuable qualities appear to be united in him for the due discharge of his office. His good common sense, and plainness of speech, accompanied with an inoffensive firmness of conduct and manner, and that kind and Christian demeanour, without which all other important points of character in the “messenger of grace” are useless and unmeaning, distinguish him as the man for the situation to which it has pleased God to call him.

His remuneration had for many years been wholly inadequate to the necessities of his family, and to the maintenance of that respectable appearance which a person in such a position among the community ought to hold. For instance, in writing to a clergyman at Valparaiso, in August, 1844, Mr. Nobbs said—

“My stock of clothing, which I brought from England is, as you may suppose, very nearly exhausted, and I have no friends there to whom I can with propriety apply for more. Until the last three years, it was my custom to wear a black coat on the Sabbath; but since that period, I have been obliged to substitute a nankeen jacket, of my own making. My only remaining coat, which is quite threadbare, is reserved for marriages and burials; so that it is customary to say, when a wedding is going to take place, ‘Teacher, you will have to put on your black coat next Sunday,’ which is equivalent to informing me, that a couple are going to be married.”

In 1849, Captain Fanshawe said, “Mr. Nobbs appears to be very much respected by all; and his virtuous demeanour, and careful education of the young, bear testimony to the faithfulness with which he has discharged his duty. The heads of families have obviated the necessity of his seeking elsewhere some more remunerative employment, by making over to him so



much land as to place him, in that respect, on an equality with themselves."

It will gratify the reader to learn that this worthy and humble-minded pastor has lately had a sufficient provision made for his comfort and suitable appearance as a clergyman.

The Rev. William Armstrong, writing in 1849, respecting the islanders, reported, that they continued to receive much benefit from the services of Mr. Nobbs, "as their religious teacher, their school-master, and their doctor." During an epidemic which prevailed in 1848, the attacks of which not more than twenty out of one hundred and fifty, escaped, Mr. Nobbs attended them from house to house, day and night, for a period of two months, with great success; only one (an infant) having died. It appeared that, on his proposing to accept a free passage to Valparaiso, that he might accompany thither his eldest son, Reuben, a great-grandson, on his mother's side, of Fletcher Christian, and then return to his people, the whole of his adopted countrymen came and begged that it might

not be so, as they could not bear to part with him. This appeal prevailed; and, on Reuben's quitting the island for Valparaiso, to settle in the world, his father gave the whole of the money he possessed, amounting to eight dollars, to his son. All the families joined in fitting him out to the best of their power, furnishing him with a supply of clothes, and making up altogether a purse of more than forty dollars; several contributing every cent they had.

Mr. Nobbs received, with much delight, by Commander Dillon, of the Cockatrice schooner, in 1851, several gratifying letters from Mr. Armstrong, and Reuben. This young man, who was twenty-two years of age in September, 1852, has acquired an excellent character, and earned the confidence of his employers, merchants at Valparaiso; but he is about to return to the island, in compliance with the wish of his mother, who has been very unhappy in consequence of his absence. He will therefore be conveyed in the Portland from Valparaiso to Pitcairn; and from the piety of his character, and general intelligence,

there is good reason to hope that he will prove a valuable help to his father, and a blessing to his fellow-islanders.

The late excellent Captain Worth, of her majesty's ship *Calypso*, who visited the island in 1848, afforded the following testimony to the amiable character and the happy state of the Pitcairn islanders:—

“We arrived here on the 9th March, (1848,) from Callao, but the weather being very bad, stormy and squally, as you know there is no landing except in a small nook called Bounty Bay, and very frequently not even there—indeed, never in ship's boats, from the violence of the surf—I did not communicate with the shore till the next day, when, having landed safely all the presents I brought for the inhabitants from Valparaiso, I landed myself with half the officers and youngsters, the ship standing off and on, there being no anchorage. I made the officers divide the day between them, one half on shore, the other on board; so they were gratified with visiting these interesting people. I never was so gratified by such a visit, and would rather

have gone there than to any part of the world. I would write you a very long letter about them, but time presses; and I will only now say they are the most interesting, contented, moral, and happy people that can be conceived.

“Their delight at our arrival was beyond any thing; the comfort, peace, strict morality, industry, and excessive cleanliness and neatness that was apparent about every thing around them, was really such as I was not prepared to witness; their learning and attainments in general education and information really astonishing; all dressed in English style; the men a fine race, and the women and children very pretty, and their manner really of a superior order, ever smiling and joyous; but one mind and one wish seems to actuate them all. Crime appears to be unknown; and if there is really true happiness on earth, it surely is their’s.

“The island is romantic and beautiful; the soil of the richest description, yielding almost every tropical fruit and vegetable: in short, it is a little paradise. I examined

their laws, added a few to them, assembled them all in the church, and addressed them, saying how gratified I was to find them in the happy state they were, in advising them to follow in the steps of virtue and rectitude they had hitherto pursued, and they would never want the sympathies of their countrymen (*i. e.* English) who were most interested about them. I added such advice as I thought useful, and such suggestions as would, of course, be to their advantage. It was really affecting to see these primitive and excellent people, both old and young, 140 in the whole, looking up to me, and almost devouring all I said, with eager attention, and with scarcely a dry eye among them; and, 'albeit unused to the melting mood,' I found a moisture collecting in my own which I could scarcely restrain,—they were so grateful, so truly thankful, for all the kindnesses that had from time to time been shown them, and the interest in their welfare shown by us and our countrymen. I had all the men and most of the women on board; but there was such a sea on, that the poor girls were

dreadfully sea-sick. I fired some guns and let off rockets on the night of our departure, and they returned the compliment by firing an old honey-combed gun belonging to the *Bounty*. I set them completely up—gave them 100 lbs. of powder, ensign and union-jack, casks of salt beef and pork, implements of agriculture of all kinds, clothes, books, &c.; and sailed, on the evening of the 11th, for Tahiti.”

Mr. Armstrong, in a letter, dated Valparaiso, October 18, 1849, said—

“The people tell me they have, for the present, a good supply of books, having received a very suitable grant from the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. The whole of the books will, I am sure, highly delight them; and, from all I hear, I have no doubt they will be prized, and made good use of. You will be glad to learn that they are all well educated, the young men being instructed in navigation, and some of the lower branches of the mathematics; and that they live together in the greatest harmony, and in the strictest observance of religious duties, public,

family, and private, with every appearance of perfect freedom from all crime, and bearing the stamp of extreme innocence and simplicity.”

Mr. Armstrong had for some years shown a warm feeling of regard for the happiness and welfare of the islanders. He had not only been instrumental in transmitting some valuable presents by way of additions to their comforts, but had written them encouraging letters. He afterward received the following pleasing letters from some of those whom he had delighted to benefit:—

“To the Rev. William Armstrong.

“Pitcairn’s Island, August 7, 1845.

“REV. SIR,—Please to receive our united thanks for the presents which you have sent us. We have prepared some native commodities for you, and would have sent them by this vessel, but the weather not being fine, and the captain being in great haste, it was delayed until another opportunity should present itself. The inhabitants are doing well; we have a good school,

and religion is in a flourishing condition; and I trust by the grace of God it will continue to be so. God Almighty be with you, and bless you now and for ever. Amen.

“Your’s,

“ARTHUR QUINTAL, JR.

“Chief Magistrate.

“P. S.—We should like to hear from you by this same man, the name of the admiral, his character, &c.”

“Pitcairn’s Island, South Pacific Ocean,

“September 26, 1844.

“HONOURED SIR,—Please to accept my humble thanks for your condescension and kindness in administering to our necessities, and expressing such solicitude for our welfare. I hope myself and school-fellows will ever retain sentiments of gratitude both toward you and our other friends in Valparaiso; and I humbly pray the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ will have you in his holy keeping, and that after this life I may be permitted to see you all, face to face, in the presence of Him who loved us, and washed us in his



own blood. To Him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

“LOUISA QUINTAL.”

“Pitcairn’s Island, South Pacific Ocean,  
“Sept. 26, 1844.

“REVEREND AND HONOURED SIR,—Please to accept my humble thanks for the interest you are please to take in our welfare, and also for the presents you and our other friends in Valparaiso have sent us; and may they and you be rewarded a thousand-fold, both in a temporal and spiritual sense. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.

“I am, Reverend Sir,

“Your grateful servant,

“MIRIAM CHRISTIAN.”

From the chief-magistrate of Pitcairn’s Island to the Rev. Mr. Wm. Armstrong :

“Pitcairn’s Island, April 6, 1848.

“DEAR FRIEND,—Long have I heard of you, though not acquainted with you, but

have often heard of your friendship toward us Pitcairn Islanders. Now I have taken this opportunity to write these few lines to you, informing you of the state of things in our little island. We are all getting on very well. I hope that you and the rest of our friends are getting on well, as we are. I return you thanks for your kind letter, which I have received from the ship *Calypso*; also the present which is sent by you and the rest of the kind gentlemen at Valparaiso. We have received from you all, such things as are very valuable to us—spades, saws, pots, and other articles. We have received them all with the greatest pleasure, and I return you all a thousand thanks for them. The presents are divided equally among us all, from the oldest woman to the youngest child: we are in number 141.

“Kind friend, this is the first opportunity I have had to write to you. I will thank you very much if you will take this fund of money which you will see in this paper, and buy me a few fish-hooks

of the size you will see in the paper ; and also for my family's use six copies of Watts's Hymn Books, and one Family Bible.

"Friend, I bid you farewell. Perhaps it may not be our chance to meet in this world, but I hope we may in a better world, where saints and angels meet.

\*       \*       \*       \*       \*       \*

\*       \*       \*       \*       \*       \*

I am obliged to close my letter in great haste.

"I remain, your sincere friend and well-wisher,

"GEORGE ADAMS,  
"Chief-Magistrate of Pitcairn's Island "

It is impossible to read these letters, so simple, pious, and scriptural in their whole tone, without astonishment, when we reflect that these are the children of mutineer fathers and idolatrous mothers. How much may one Bible do when blessed by the Spirit of God !

The Pitcairn school-house is a substan

tial building, about 56 feet long by 20 wide, conveniently supplied with forms, desks, slates, books, and maps. This room is fitted up and used for the performance of divine service on Sundays, and such other days as are appointed on the island. At one end there is a pulpit, and a small space allotted for the use of the pastor.

In a letter from some of the elder pupils to Captain Hope, in August, 1847, an interesting report is given of the school-duties, and times of attendance:—

“We attend school five days in the week, five hours each day. Our routine of school duties is as follows:—namely, commence with prayer and praise; conclude with the same. Monday, recital of weekly tasks, reading the Holy Scriptures, writing, arithmetic, and class spelling. Tuesday, the same as on Monday. Wednesday, reading in history and geography, transcribing select portions of Scripture, &c. Thursday, similar to Monday and Tuesday. And on Friday, which is the busiest day of the week, transcribing

words with their definitions from Walker's Dictionary; read hymns, or other devotional and moral poetry; repeat Watts's and the Church Catechism; arithmetical tables, &c. &c.; and emulative spelling concludes the whole. We are generally an hour longer at school on this day than any other. On Wednesday afternoon the elder scholars attend the Bible-class, with their parents. On the Sabbath, divine service is performed twice, and all who can possibly attend do so.

"The present so kindly sent us by the Rev. Mr. Thompson, received so much injury from wet before it reached us, as to be nearly useless. We regret this much, because we were greatly in need of school requisites generally. If the request is not improper, will you, honoured sir, procure for us some copy-slips, or models for writing, and a few of Walkinghame's Arithmetic, with a Key to the same? for we often hear our teacher say if he had these helps his work would be much easier; and we heartily wish

he could obtain the means of making it so."

It is gratifying to learn that the school has been well attended to during the absence of the master. On this a few words will be added presently.

## CHAPTER VIII.

INVITATION TO ADMIRAL MORESBY—VISIT OF AN ENGLISH ADMIRAL TO THE ISLAND—HIS LETTERS AND THOSE OF HIS SECRETARY AND CHAPLAIN—ARRIVAL AT VALPARAISO—MR. NOBBS IN ENGLAND—HIS ORDINATION—HIS INTERVIEW WITH THE QUEEN AND PRINCE ALBERT—RETURN HOMEWARD BY NAVY BAY AND THE ISTHMUS OF PANAMA—INTELLIGENCE FROM PITCAIRN—THE FIRST COMMUNION ON THE ISLAND.

THE narrative has now reached an important era in the annals of Pitcairn. The first arrival of an English admiral at the island may be considered an historical event among the community there; and it may be reasonably hoped that the result of his visit will prove a blessing to the people.

Rear-Admiral Moresby, who had long been interested in the state and prospects of the islanders, received in July, 1851, the following warm and hearty invitation,

signed by thirteen of the female inhabitants, in the name of all their sex on the island:—

“Pitcairn, July 28, 1851.

HONOURABLE SIR,—From the kind interest you have evinced for our little community in the letter which you have sent our excellent and worthy pastor, Mr. Nobbs, we are emboldened to send you the following request, which is that you will visit us before you leave this station; or if it is impossible for you to do so, certainly we, as loyal subjects of our gracious queen, ought to be visited annually, if not more, by one of her ships of war.

“We have never had the pleasure of welcoming an English admiral to our little island, and we therefore earnestly solicit a visit from you. How inexpressibly happy shall we be if you should think fit to grant this our warmest wish! We trust that our very secluded and isolated position, and the very few visits we have of late had from British ships of war, will be sufficient apology for addressing the above request to you. With fervent prayers



for your present and future happiness, and for that of our queen and nation, we remain, honoured sir, your sincere and affectionate well-wishers,

CAROLINE ADAMS,  
DORCAS YOUNG,  
SARAH MCCOY,  
SARAH ADAMS,  
PHCEBE ADAMS,  
JEMIMA YOUNG,  
REBECCA CHRISTIAN,  
HANNAH YOUNG,  
NANCY QUINTAL,  
ELIZA QUINTAL,  
RUTH QUINTAL,  
RACHEL EVANS,  
SARAH NOBBS,

In the name and on behalf of all the rest of the female sex on the Island."

It will be seen from the subjoined narrative that this invitation was accepted. The lively account, which has been supplied by Mr. Nobbs, of the reception of Admiral Moresby, will serve to place the reader in possession of many interesting facts connected with the present state of the island.

“On the 7th of August, 1852, (at noon,) a vessel was reported, which at sunset was strongly suspected of being a ship of war. The hours of the night passed tediously away, and before sunrise next morning several of our people were seated on the precipice in front of the town anxiously waiting the report of a gun from the ship, which would give positive confirmation to the overnight suspicion of her being a ship of war; nor were they kept long in suspense: the booming of a cannon electrified the town, and the whole community were thrown into a state of intense excitement, more especially as it was quickly observed that she bore an admiral’s flag!

“Our boat repaired on board, and, after a short time, another from the ship was seen approaching the shore. The teacher and some others went to the landing-place, and had the honour of welcoming to Pitcairn Rear-Admiral Moresby, commander-in-chief—the first officer of that rank that ever visited our island. The admiral received our greetings of welcome in a most urbane manner, and both himself and his

secretary, Mr. Fortescue Moresby, were pleased to express themselves much gratified with all they saw and heard. The admiral attended divine service, and was evidently surprised at the improvement the people had made in singing by note; especially as their friend Carleton had so very limited a time for instructing them. In the afternoon the Rev. Mr. Holman preached a sermon, most appropriate to the occasion, from 1st Cor. 15th chap. last verse: 'Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.'

"The admiral, in the course of conversation, learned from the inhabitants that they had a great desire for the ordination of their pastor, and, with great kindness, proposed to send Mr. Nobbs to England for that purpose, leaving the Rev. Mr. Holman to officiate in his stead. The inhabitants did not accede to this most generous offer so readily as they ought to have done; and the reason they gave was,

that in case of sickness they would have no one to prescribe for them. The admiral told them they might do as they liked, but that they should not without consideration let so favourable an opportunity pass without improving it. They listened with breathless attention to the paternal advice of the admiral, and readily acquiesced in his views of the subject, but still they evinced a backwardness in agreeing to part with their teacher. The admiral, on perceiving this, kindly told them he would give them till eleven o'clock to come to a decision, and that he would not retire till that period.

“During their debate one of them came to inquire of the admiral whether Mr. Holman would teach the public school. The admiral replied, ‘Certainly.’ On this the man went away; and at eleven o'clock, as no answer had arrived, the admiral went to bed: about twelve o'clock, word was brought that the community had agreed to let their teacher go, which was duly reported next morning to the admiral, who remarked that they had done

well in consenting to Mr. Nobbs's departure, and that he would take upon himself the responsibility of the expenses incurred necessarily by Mr. Nobbs, although he had no doubt there were friends of the Pitcairn Islanders who would cheerfully unite with him; and further, they would never lack friends so long as they continued to deserve them.

"As the point was now decided, Mr. Nobbs was requested to hold himself in readiness for embarkation, the admiral generously undertaking to supply him with articles in which his scanty wardrobe was deficient. On seeing the necessity there was of an educated female to improve the domestic habits of the women generally, and hearing Mr. Nobbs remark that he would send one of his daughters to Valparaiso for improvement, that she might on her return instruct the others, but that he could not command funds for doing so, the admiral replied, 'Take your child with you, and I will put her to school while you are gone to England; and when you

come back you can take her to the island with you.'

"And now comes the leave-taking,—the venerable and benevolent commander-in-chief of her majesty's forces in the Pacific, standing on the rocky beach at Bounty Bay, (the very spot where the mutineers had landed sixty-two years before,) himself the oldest person there, by fifteen years, surrounded by stalwart men and matronly women, youths, maidens, and little children, every one in tears and most deeply affected, formed a truly impressive scene. The boat was some time in readiness before the admiral could avail himself of an opportunity to embark. Some held him by the hand, the elder women hanging on his neck, and the younger ones endeavouring to obtain a promise that he would revisit them. As a number of the men went on board with the admiral, a similar scene occurred there; and as the last boat pushed off from the ship, some of the hardy tars standing in the gangway were detected in hastily

brushing away a tear. The frigate now stood in for the last time, and, hoisting the royal standard, fired a salute of twenty-one guns. The tars manned the rigging, and gave three hearty cheers, and one cheer more. The islanders responded: the band struck up ‘God save the queen;’ and the stately Portland started on her track. To Admiral Moresby, Mr. Fortescue Moresby, Captain Chads, and the officers generally, the people of Pitcairn are much indebted for many, very many favours. That they will long be gratefully remembered, admits not of a doubt; and that the inhabitants may continue to conduct themselves as becomes people so highly favoured is most devoutly to be wished.”

The following letter from Admiral Moresby to the Admiralty, will further illustrate the subject of Pitcairn, its people, and pastor:—

“Portland, at sea, August 12, 1852.

“SIR,—Continuing the report of my proceedings from the 27th ult., I request you will inform the Lords Commissioners

of the Admiralty, that after passing over the position assigned to Incarnation Island without seeing it, we made Pitcairn's Island on the morning of the 7th instant.

“Early on Sunday, the 8th, I landed. From this time to the period of our departure, on the 11th, I remained on shore, and a constant intercourse was kept up with the Portland.

“It is impossible to do justice to the spirit of order and decency that animates the whole community, whose number amounts to 170, strictly brought up in the Protestant faith, by Mr. Nobbs, their pastor and surgeon, who has for twenty-four years zealously and successfully, by precept and example, raised them to a state of the highest moral conduct and feeling.

“Of fruits and edible roots they have at present abundance, which they exchange with the whalers for clothing, oil, medicine, and other necessaries; but the crops on the tillage ground begin to deteriorate, landslips occur with each succeeding storm, and the declivities of the hills, when denuded,



are laid bare by the periodical rains. Their diet consists of yams, sweet-potatoes, and bread-fruit; a small quantity of fish is occasionally caught; their pigs supply annually upon an average about 50 lbs. of meat to each individual; and they have a few goats and fowls. Their want of clothing and other absolute necessities is very pressing; and I am satisfied that the time has arrived when preparation, at least, must be made for the future, seven or eight years being the utmost that can be looked forward to for a continuance of their present means of support. The summary of the year 1851 gives—births, 12; deaths, 2; marriages, 3. On their return from Tahiti they numbered about 60, of whom there were married 13 couple; the rest from the age of 16 to infancy.

“Mr. Nobbs was anxious to avail himself of my offer to convey him to Valparaiso, and thence enable him to proceed to England. At a general meeting of the inhabitants their consent was given, provided I would leave the chaplain of the Portland until Mr. Nobbs returned: the

advantage is so obvious that I feel confident their lordships will approve my consenting. From the anxiety which has been expressed for Mr. Nobbs's ordination, I anticipate that it will be effected with so little delay that he will be enabled to return to Valparaiso by the middle of January.

"I was unable to comply strictly with the list of articles which their lordships authorized me to give the islanders. I enclose a list of what we supplied; they were greatly wanted and gratefully received. The crew of the Portland also requested permission to give a portion of their allowance, and also that they might be allowed to send them a whale-boat, with other stores from Valparaiso.

"Captain Chads and the officers were most generous. I was fortunate in procuring at Borobora a young bull and heifer, also a ram, accidents having befallen the ones previously sent. The packet of seeds forwarded was duly delivered.

"Should any unfortunate circumstance prevent the periodical visits of the whale-ships, they would be left entirely to the

charitable consideration of her majesty's government. The crews of the whale-ships have invariably conducted themselves with marked propriety. They take their turn of leave on shore, and their sick are received and nursed with the greatest care.

"The Adeline Gibbs, American whaler, Mr. Weeks, master, was there during our visit. Mr. and Mrs. Weeks were living ashore. It would be a happy circumstance if a person like her could be found to reside among them.

"I forward a continuation of their journal since that published by Mr. Brodie—a very correct statement, which renders unnecessary any further remarks.

"I have, &c.

"FAIRFAX MORESBY,

"Rear-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief."

The admiral also wrote thus from the Portland, at sea, August, 1852:—

"Of all the eventful periods which have checkered my life, none have surpassed in interest, and I trust in hope of future good, the last, our visit to Pitcairn; and surely

the hand of God has been in all this, for by chances the most unexpected, and by favourable winds out of the usual course of the trades, we were carried in eleven days to Pitcairn's from Borobora. It is impossible to describe the charm that the society of the islanders throws around them under the providence of God. The hour and the occasion served, and I have brought away their pastor and teacher for the purpose of sending him to England to be ordained, and one of his daughters, who will be placed at the English clergyman's at Valparaiso, until her father's return. The islanders depend principally for their necessary supplies on the whaling ships, which are generally American. Greatly to their credit, the men behave in the most exemplary manner, very differently from what I expected. One rough seaman, whom I spoke to in praise of such conduct, said, 'Sir, I expect, if one of our fellows was to misbehave himself here, we should not leave him alive.' They are guileless and unsophisticated beyond description. The time had arrived when preparation for

partial removal was necessary, and especially for the ordination of their pastor.

“They are thoroughly versed in Bible history, which has hitherto kept them from listening to the advances of some overheated imaginations. I stayed for days upon that speck in the ocean, but rising like a paradise from its bosom. I believe there was scarcely a dry eye in the ship when the islanders took their leave. We ran within hail of the settlement, hoisted the royal standard, fired a salute, and cheered them.”

*Extract of a letter from the Admiral's  
Secretary.*

“At 6. 30, A. M. of the 9th, as we were dancing along about eight knots an hour before a fresh breeze, we discovered a thin blue shadow, whose outline appeared to be too well defined to be a cloud : at 9 we were certain that we saw Pitcairn's Island. Having read so much of the mutiny of the *Bounty*, and the subsequent romantic history of the mutineers, which has resulted in the formation of a colony celebrated for

their virtue and simplicity and religion, I experienced a feeling of something (I know not what to call it) on approaching the island, that I have felt when visiting some spot held sacred either from history or from being the scene of some biblical relation; it is a secret kind of satisfaction. Having a fair wind, we hoped about noon to be on shore; but while we were yet twenty miles from the island, the wind came directly foul, and fell light, so that we hardly held our own, owing to the heavy swell, and all day we remained endeavouring to work up. What a little spot it appears on the vast Pacific! A mere rock, apparently incapable to resist the mighty waves of so vast an ocean. Easily indeed would a ship, not knowing its exact position, miss it. The mutineers might well deem themselves secure on so small an island, so remotely situated at that time. Also these seas were but little frequented; but even now, to give you an idea of their vast extent, notwithstanding the thousands of ships that are trading on them, we have only seen one ship at sea, and our track mea

sure 4500 miles. When we get close to the land, or some well-known port, we see a few. During the night we got a slant of wind, and at 6, Sunday morning the 8th, we were close to the island. The admiral fired a gun to give notice of our arrival. A whale-boat full of the islanders soon came off, but before coming alongside they asked permission to come on board; then jumped up the side seven or eight fine, tall, robust fellows, and gave us a hearty shake-hands, and assured us of a hearty welcome when we went on shore.

“I was in my cabin with Philip McCoy, one of the islanders, when the sentry came to tell me that it was prayer-time, for the admiral always has prayers before breakfast. I said to Philip, ‘I shall be up again directly, if you will wait.’ He paused a moment, and then said, ‘May I come, sir?’ ‘Oh yes,’ I answered. On going down, we met the rest of his companions, whom he told, and they all came in and kneeled down to prayers. We then got a hurried breakfast, and the admiral and myself immediately landed in the cutter, the water

being pretty smooth. This was the only time a ship's boat was able to land, for a heavy surf generally rolls in, breaking with terrific violence on the rocky shore. The proper way to land is to come to the back of the rollers in a ship's boat; a whale-boat then comes off, you get into her, and she immediately gets ready to obey the signal of a man who stands upon a rock on shore, and directly he waves his hat, the favourable moment has arrived, the men give way, and with wonderful rapidity the boat is borne on the top of the wave to the shore. They are very skilful, and in a heavy surf will generally land you dry.

“Mr. George Hunn Nobbs, their teacher or pastor, met us at the landing-place, and we at once ascended the cliffs by a steep winding path to a plantation of cocoa-trees, called the market-place, as all trade is carried on at this spot. Here the islanders met us and gave us a hearty welcome. Generally all the inhabitants assemble here to welcome the officers of a man-of-war; but as it was Sunday and early, they had not arrived. We continued our way by a



pretty path winding through the trees to the town, meeting here and there detachments coming toward us. These all followed in our wake; and by the time we reached Mr. Nobbs's cottage, which is situated at the opposite end of the town, we had pretty well all the people after us.

“Never were seen so many happy smiling faces, all eager to look at the first admiral that ever came to their happy island; but not one tried to push his way, or make any attempt to get before another. If we said a kind word to any of them, they looked so happy and pleased! and we did not neglect to do so. There is not one in whose face good humour, virtue, amiability, and kindness does not beam, and consequently not one whose face is not pleasing.

“It was now church-time, and away we all went to church. Mr. Nobbs officiated, impressively and earnestly: the most solemn attention was paid by all. They sang two hymns in most magnificent style; and really I have never heard any church singing in any part of the world that could

equal it, except at cathedrals; and the whole of the credit is due to a Mr. Carleton, who was left behind by accident from a whaler.

“Both sexes like to dress like English people, if they can, on Sundays. The women complain that they cannot get shoes; but all the men can get them from the whalers. During the week, their dress consists chiefly of a dark-blue petticoat, and a white kind of shirt for the women; and for the men a loose shirt and trowsers. Their food consists chiefly of yams, cocoanuts, bananas,tacco, oranges, &c. &c., a few fish; and in the yam season, each family kills a large pig, that during the hard work of digging yams they may have a little animal food. Sometimes they get goats'-flesh, and they are trying to rear a few cattle. The admiral gave them a young bull and cow, also a ram.

“Both sexes work very hard indeed. They usually rise at dawn, have family prayers, do the work that is necessary; about dusk have supper; then they go to the singing-school or to Mr. Nobbs, or meet

to have a chat. About nine or ten, they go to bed, previously having family worship. Should one of the little ones go to bed or to sleep during his mother's absence, she immediately awakes it to say its prayers. Not a soul on the island would dream of commencing a meal or finishing without asking a blessing or returning thanks. Boys and girls can swim almost as soon as they can walk; consequently they can swim through the largest surf, and play about among the broken water on the rocks that we look at with terror. One of their greatest amusements is to have a slide, as they term it; that is, to take a piece of wood about three feet long, shaped like a canoe, with a small keel, (called a surf-board;) they then, holding this before them, dive under the first heavy sea, and come up the other side; they then swim out a little way until they see a rapid heavy sea come rolling in, the higher the better; they rest their breast upon the canoe or surf-board, and are carried along on the very apex of the surf at a prodigious rate right upon the rocks, where you

think nothing can save them from being dashed to pieces, the surf seems so powerful; but in a moment they are on their legs, and prepared for another slide. Their method of fishing is equally dangerous; the women walk upon the rocks until they see a squid; then watching the retreating sea, they run in and try to pick the squid up before the advancing surf can wash them off; but frequently they are washed off, and then they have to exert all their skill to land, for they have no surf-board to help them.

“Away, away! We are off to the world again, truly sorry to leave this island; their happiness in this life consists wholly in virtue, and their virtue is their truest pleasure. They think that (and how really true it is!) the more religious and virtuous you become, the happier you are; deeming every sin to take from your enjoyment in this and the after life. If we were to take away the credit of leading so good a life from principle, they would still continue, as they know that true pleasure is only to be obtained by

obeying the will of God. Their temperance and industry give them health, food, and cheerfulness, and gain for them universal esteem, respect, and sympathy; and as in this life they do not seek their pleasures in things below, but in a higher power, so we may earnestly hope that the image of the Saviour will be found in their hearts, and in the next world that they may be peculiarly His own."

It will have been seen that the Rev. W. H. Holman was left at Pitcairn during the temporary withdrawal of Mr. Nobbs. The following is an extract of a letter of Mr. Holman to his father:—

"Pitcairn's Island, Sept. 5, 1852.

"And now, as to my life on the island. I attend the school from a quarter past eight until twelve; dine at one; after dinner I accompany some one or other of the islanders to their work, and remain walking until sunset, when we return to supper. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, after supper, I attend the singing-school, which is conducted or the Hullah

system, and of which all the people are passionately fond. On other nights I have always visitors, who come to hear me talk of a world of which they know nothing beyond their own island.

“The accounts of the virtue and piety of these people are by no means exaggerated. I have no doubt they are the most religious and virtuous community in the world ; and during the month I have been here, I have seen nothing approaching a quarrel, but perfect peace and good-will among all.”

This part of the history cannot be concluded without an account, by one of the voyagers, which brings the narrative down to Mr. Nobbs’s arrival at Valparaiso, on his way to England :—

“He has officiated as a minister during the last twenty-three years, greatly to the satisfaction of the islanders, if one may judge by the respect and affection which they entertain for him. We brought Mr. Nobbs as far as Valparaiso. More than one meeting was held by the elders, before they could bring themselves to consent to

his leaving them, though only for a few months. At last their anxiety to have a regularly ordained clergyman prevailed. We found these excellent people fully deserving all the praise which has been bestowed upon them. They are like one large family, living in perfect harmony with each other. We were treated by them like brothers, and welcomed everywhere. The population is now twenty-one families. Arthur Quintal is the oldest man, and George Adams next, these being the only male survivors of the first generation. They are badly off for clothing, which they purchase from the whaling vessels occasionally touching there. Their money is derived from the sale of their surplus yams, &c.; but owing to the small size of the island, and the rapid increase of the population, they must, in a very few years, withhold from ships all supplies except water. The endeavours of Mr. Carleton and the Baron de Thierry to teach the natives singing, have been successful. They now sing together in parts beautifully, and are very grateful to

those gentlemen for this tuition. They meet twice a week to practise, and we heard them sing a variety of glees extremely well.

“We arrived on the morning of Sunday, August 8. As soon as we hove-to off Bounty Bay, Arthur Quintal and George Adams, with as many as a whale-boat could contain, came on board to pay their respects to the first admiral who had ever visited them. Shortly after they requested leave to attend prayers in the admiral’s cabin.

“Our chaplain in the afternoon preached an excellent sermon on shore. The hymns were sung in regular parts by the whole congregation. The congregation were very nicely dressed; indeed, it is a great point to have white shirts on Sunday. The Sabbath is strictly observed. The crew of the Portland requested permission, which was granted, to present the islanders with three casks of rice, twelve bags of bread, and one cask of sugar; the value of these articles being charged against their wages. Mr. Nobbs left the shore amid the tears



and blessings of his little flock, by whom he is sincerely beloved.

“Before making sail on our course, we ran in close to the island, hoisted the royal standard at the particular request of the islanders, who had never before seen it displayed, fired a royal salute, manned the rigging, and gave three cheers for the islanders, which they answered heartily. We arrived at Valparaiso on the 30th August.”

Mr. Nobbs having travelled by the Isthmus of Panama, arrived in England Oct. 16, 1852. Admiral Moresby had supplied him with the means of obtaining a passage from Valparaiso to London, and had offered £100 (\$480) toward such costs as might be incurred during his absence from the island.

After twenty-six years spent in the quiet seclusion of a little rock in the Pacific, how great the change to that great Babylon of the nations—London! “He was indeed an interesting stranger,” says one who met him in that city, “very modest, and with a sort of sad and stern simplicity in his

manner, which well agreed with the life he had led, and to which he longed to return. He looked the age he was, fifty-three. His features were characterized by a quiet decision; and he spoke with gravity and deliberation. Nothing seemed to surprise him—it was the result of a long life of anxiety, suffering, and labour”—and, we may add, of a mind intent upon one great object, from which nothing could divert him—the welfare and improvement of his little flock on that lone isle of the Pacific.

Mr. Nobbs's well-established character and long services as a religious teacher left no room to question the propriety of his being formally set apart to the work of the ministry. On the 30th of November he was accordingly ordained, with the title of "Chaplain of Pitcairn's Island."

During Mr. Nobbs's stay in England, which was but for two months, he received many attentions from those high in rank and station. His history, and the deeply interesting accounts given by visitors of the state of the Pitcairn Islanders, made

him a welcome visitor at the houses of the great and good.

In consideration of the scanty resources of Pitcairn's Island, some noblemen and gentlemen were induced, on the recommendation of Admiral Moresby, to raise a fund of moderate amount toward the passage and outfit of Mr. Nobbs, and for the supply of such things as were deemed requisite for the inhabitants. Labourers' and carpenters' tools, a proper bell for the church, medicines, two or three clocks, clothing of various sorts, simple articles of furniture, and cooking utensils, were needed. Supplies of some of these things are likely to be required for a few years to come. It appears from recent accounts, that the crops on the island have lately failed, owing to a very long period of drought.

The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, at a general meeting, at which Mr. Nobbs was present, unanimously granted one hundred pounds toward the fund.

The Society for the Propagation of the

Gospel placed Mr. Nobbs on its list of missionaries, with a salary of £50 per annum.

The directors of the Royal Mail Steam Navigation Company generously provided him with a free passage to Navy Bay.

Mr. Nobbs was anxious, before returning to his little flock in Pitcairn, to be admitted to the presence of the queen. As he had friends among those high in rank, arrangements were easily made for his admittance to an audience. Two days before he quitted England, he embarked at Portsmouth, on board the yacht *Fairy*, and proceeded, by appointment, to Osborne House, the residence of the queen in the Isle of Wight, where he was presented to Prince Albert. His royal highness was very kind, asked many questions as to the island, and appeared much pleased with the answers given.

In a letter written the next day, he says, "Prince Albert was very urbane, and asked me many questions about our island, and appeared much pleased with the answers I gave him. He then inquired what he could do for the community. I said,

her majesty's community had supplied us with all we had need of at present, but that if he would present us with her majesty's picture, including himself and the royal children, we should consider it a great favor. He smiled, and said I should have it. After a little more conversation, I saw that he was designing to withdraw, and not a word had been said about seeing her majesty. No time was to be lost, so I screwed up my courage and said, 'Will your royal highness permit me to pay my duty to the queen?' He replied, 'I am just going to inquire if her majesty will see you.' After a few minutes I went into the room where her majesty was:" and worthy Mr. Nobbs proceeds to say that he was instantly set at ease by the affable condescension of the queen.

We can imagine the wonder and delight with which the Pitcairn Islanders will listen to the story of their pastor's interview with the Queen of England, and the joy with which they will receive the pictures of the royal family, which have been kindly sent to them by her command.

If, as a subject of the British government, he regards it as a high privilege that he was permitted to approach and address the monarch of a great nation, how much higher a privilege is granted to every one of us,—the privilege of drawing nigh to the King of kings, of making known to him all our wants, and of having him make his abode within us! Do we prize this honour as highly as we should?

Mr. Nobbs sailed from Southampton in the royal mail steamship *La Plata*, on the 17th December, 1852, and reached the island of St. Thomas early in the year 1853: from thence he proceeded in another steamer to Navy Bay. At the head of Navy Bay lies the town of Aspinwall. There is the terminus of the railroad, by which the traveller is conveyed about 25 miles, at a high rate, to the station at Barbacoas, on the river Chagres. Thence there is a conveyance up the river by canoes, about 14 miles, to the town of Cruces. From Cruces the journey overland to Panama, about 25 miles, is completed on mules, over one of the very worst

roads that exist in the known world. From the island of Tabôga, near Panama, an excellent steamer plies continually to Valparaiso, touching at Callao, a port of Peru.

Mr. Nobbs, though a well-tried traveller, equal to the endurance of no small amount of hardship, experienced a full share of the trouble and annoyance for which the journey over the Isthmus of Panama is proverbial. He had purposely avoided taking much luggage. Not only, however, was the charge of conveyance exorbitant; but, notwithstanding all his care, he, for some time, lost sight of a trunk, which contained, among other articles of importance, a beautiful set of communion-plate, which had been intrusted to his care by a friend at Fulham, for use in the church at Pitcairn. This painful event, added to the ill effect of the climate, brought on an attack of fever, the symptoms of which were slight, until his leaving Panama. By God's blessing this sickness passed away. Through the active zeal of the British consul at Panama, the goods, which had

been missing for a week, were safe in Mr Nobbs's hands when he wrote. He had arrived at Valparaiso just too late for a vessel which had left for Pitcairn; and he had found his son and daughter in good health. Writing to the Rev. Mr. Murray, one of his warmest and best friends, he says—

“After some detention and sickness, I was graciously permitted to arrive here on the 12th of February, and I am still detained waiting for the Portland. Oh, how I wish to be at home! The admiral is in tolerable health, and so is the Rev. Mr. Hill, who, I believe, corresponds with you. I have divided the duty with him at the church on shore, ever since I have been here, besides the service on board one of the British ships of war, once on each Sabbath; so you see I am not idle. The agent for British steamers in these parts presented me with a free passage from Panama to Valparaiso, in the name of his company. I wish you, my friend, would thank them for their kindness. I also intend doing the same. Please to offer my



grateful remembrances to all and every one to whom you think it right they should be offered, especially those kind and worthy brethren of your society, who have expressed so much interest in me and mine."

The distance from England to Pitcairn, by the route described, is about 10,160 miles.

From Valparaiso, it was expected that Admiral Moresby would convey him to Pitcairn in the Portland; and the islanders probably welcomed him home by the middle of May, 1853. May it please God to keep him in health and safety for the service of his distant flock! Who can adequately imagine the scene which would be presented on his landing among his friends on the island, to be parted from them no more on this side the grave!"

In his last letter to Mr. Murray, he said, "I hope my next will be dated Pitcairn's Island." Looking forward to the pleasure of being once more at home, he added, "Oh! that will be joyful." While staying at Valparaiso, he will have heard the interesting intelligence respecting the island-

ers, which is conveyed by the Rev. W. H. Holman, in a letter forwarded by Admiral Moresby, who writes, "Truly my heart rejoices at the completion of my wishes in Mr. Nobbs's ordination, and the future prospect opening to the Pitcairn community. A small sum will suffice to keep up a knowledge of the Tahitian language—the voice by which the extension of the gospel will be forwarded.

"I have now only to hope and trust, that it will please God to give his blessing to all that has been done."

Mr. Holman's letter to the admiral speaks volumes in favour, not only of the people, but of the care and faithfulness of the pastor who had so long laboured to train them to all that is good:—

"Pitcairn's Island, December 21, 1852.

"The arrival of the English whaler, Mary Nichols, and her departure to-day for the Island of Chiloe, affords me an opportunity of communicating intelligence from this place. The Cockatrice arrived on the 17th of November, and left again

on the 24th. The people are greatly pleased with the presents brought by her, and feel very grateful for the kindness of their friends. Two deaths have occurred since I last wrote, that of Mary Christian, on the 24th of October, and a little boy, William Quintal, on the 1st of November, the latter from locked-jaw, occasioned by a thorn running into his foot. The assistant-surgeon of the Cockatrice informed me, that no medical aid could have saved either case. The people are now quite healthy, with the exception of the slight indisposition caused by vaccination, which is proceeding very favourably, and which, I hope, will have succeeded in every case before your return.

“I am happy in being able again to report favourably of the high moral and religious character of the people. The latter has, I trust, been greatly improved by the serious and solemn thoughts occasioned by the first administration of the holy communion.”

## CHAPTER IX

SOME ACCOUNT OF THE LAWS OF PITCAIRN--THE ISLAND  
REGISTER—LIST OF VESSELS MENTIONED IN THIS WORK  
WHICH HAVE TOUCHED AT THE ISLAND—MELANCHOLY  
ACCIDENT ON THE ISLAND.

SOME account will be expected of the laws and regulations of Pitcairn's Island.

## LAW RESPECTING THE MAGISTRATE.

“The magistrate is to convene the public on occasions of complaints being made to him; and on hearing both sides of the question, commit it to a jury. He is to see all fines levied, and all public works executed; and every one must treat him with respect. He is not to assume any power or authority on his own responsibility, or without the consent of the majority of the people. A public journal shall be kept by the magistrate, and shall from time to time be read; so that no one

shall plead ignorance of the law for any crime he may commit. This journal shall be submitted to the inspection of those captains of British men-of-war, which occasionally touch at the island.

“N. B. Every person, from the age of fifteen and upward, shall pay a fine similar to masters of families.

#### LAWS REGARDING THE SCHOOL.

“There must be a school kept, to which all parents shall be obliged to send their children, who must previously be able to repeat the alphabet, and be of the age of from six to sixteen. Mr. Nobbs shall be placed at the head of the school, assisted by such persons as shall be named by the chief-magistrate. The school-hours shall be from seven o'clock in the morning until noon, on all days, excepting Saturdays and Sundays; casualties and sickness excepted. One shilling, or an equivalent, as marked below, shall be paid for each child per month, by the parents, whether the child attend school or not. In case Mr. Nobbs does not attend, the assistant

appointed by the chief-magistrate shall receive the salary in proportion to the time Mr. Nobbs is absent.

“Equivalent for money :—

	s.	d.*
One barrel of yams, valued at . . . .	8	0
One barrel of sweet-potatoes . . . .	8	0
One barrel of Irish potatoes . . . .	12	0
Three good bunches of plantains . . . .	4	0
One day's labour . . . . .	2	0

The chief-magistrate is to see the labour well performed ; and goods which may be given for money, shall be delivered, either at the market-place, or at the house of Mr. Nobbs, as he may direct.”

#### LAWS RESPECTING LANDMARKS.

“On the 1st of January, after the magistrate is elected, he shall assemble all those who should be deemed necessary ; and with them he is to visit all landmarks that are upon the island, and replace those that are lost. Should any thing occur to prevent its accomplishment in the time

---

\* Four shillings of English money are about equal to one dollar.

specified, (the 1st of January,) the magistrate is bound to see it done the first opportunity.

#### LAWS FOR TRADING WITH SHIPS.

*“No person or persons shall be allowed to get spirits of any sort, from any vessel, or sell it to strangers, or any person upon the island. Any one found guilty of so doing shall be punished by fine, or such other punishment as a jury shall determine on. No intoxicating liquor whatever shall be allowed to be taken on shore, unless it be for medicinal purposes. Any person found guilty of transgressing this law shall be severely punished by a jury. No females are allowed to go on board a foreign vessel of any size or description, without the permission of the magistrate; and in case the magistrate does not go on board himself, he is to appoint four men to look after the females.*

#### LAWS FOR THE PUBLIC ANVIL, ETC.

*“Any person taking the public anvil and public sledge-hammer from the black-*

smith's shop, is to take it back after he has done with it; and in case the anvil and sledge-hammer should get lost by his neglecting to take it back, he is to get another anvil and sledge-hammer, and pay a fine of four shillings."

With regard to the laws as to cats, fowls, &c., the Rev. G. H. Nobbs stated as follows:—

"If a CAT is killed without being positively detected in killing fowls, however strong the suspicion may be, the person killing such cat is obliged, as a penalty, to destroy 300 rats, whose tails must be submitted for the inspection of the magistrate, by way of proof that the penalty has been paid.

"If a fowl is found destroying the yams or potatoes, the owner of the plantation, after giving due warning, may shoot the fowl, and retain it for his use, and may demand of the owner of such fowl the amount of powder and shot so expended, as well as the fowl. The fowls are all toe-marked



Goats, and other quadrupeds are ear-marked.

“If a pig gets loose from its sty and commits any depredation, the owner is obliged to make good the damage, according to the decision of the magistrate, whose duty it is to survey the injury alleged to be done, and from whose decision a reference, if necessary, may be made to a jury; but the final appeal is to the captain of the next man-of-war touching at the island.”

A bank was set on foot a few years since at Pitcairn. The dollars, which were not very numerous, were allowed to accumulate for a time, partly with the object of purchasing a vessel. But the plan did not answer; and the several deposits were returned.

THE REGISTER OF PITCAIRN'S ISLAND, from 1790 to 1850, is a very interesting document, and will probably be of great value hereafter, as a record of names and events connected with that little world. A few extracts will be given.

The first entry occurs January 23, 1790:  
“H. M. S. Bounty burned. Fasto, wife of

John Williams, died. October Thursday  
Christian born."

The annals of 1793 are of a most melancholy kind, recounting the massacre of Fletcher Christian, John Mills, William Brown, John Williams, Isaac Martin; and the death of all the Tahitian men, "part by jealousy among themselves, and others by the remaining Englishmen."

In 1794 we read of "a great desire in many of the women to leave the island: and of a boat built on purpose to remove them, launched, and upset." In August, the same year, "a grave was dug, and the bones of all the white men that had been murdered were buried." In November, "a conspiracy of the women to kill all the white men, when asleep in their beds, was discovered. They were all seized, a disclosure ensued, and all were pardoned." November 30, "the women attacked the white men, but no one was hurt. They were once more pardoned, and threatened the next time with death."

"1795, *May* 6.—The first two canoes,

for the purpose of catching fish, were made. Saw a vessel close in with the island. Mutineers much alarmed. Vessel stood out to sea December 27.

“1797.—Endeavoured to procure a quantity of meat for salting, and to make syrup from the ti-plant and sugar-cane.

“1799.—Matthew Quintal having threatened to take the lives of Young and Adams, these two considered their lives in danger, and thought they were justified in taking away the life of Quintal, which they did with an axe.

“1800.—Edward Young, a mutineer, died of asthma.

“1817.—Arrived, ship Sultan, of Boston, Captain Reynolds; Jenny, a Tahitian woman, left here in the Sultan.

“1823.—Arrived, ship Cyrus, of London, Captain Hall; John Buffett came on shore, as school-master, and John Evans also came on shore.

“1825, *December* 5.—Arrived, H. M. S. Blossom, Captain F. W. Beechey.

“1826, *December* 19.—Jane Quintal left

the island in the *Lovely*, of London, Captain Blythe.

“1828, *November* 15.—George Nobbs came on shore to reside.

“1829, *March* 5.—

JOHN ADAMS died, aged 65.
---------------------------

“1830, *March* 15.—Arrived, H. M. S. *Seringapatam*, Captain Hon. W. Waldegrave, with a present of clothes and agricultural implements and tools from the British government.

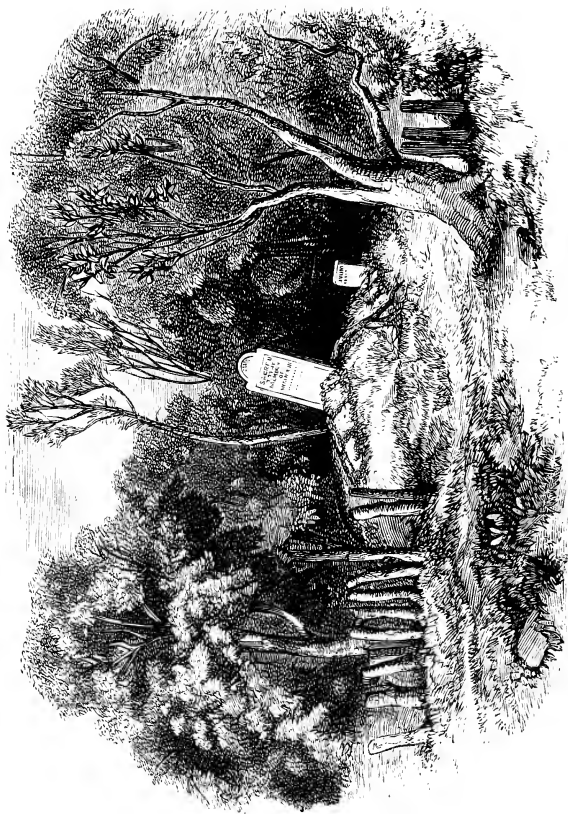
“1831, *February* 28.—Arrived, H. M. Sloop *Comet*, Alexander A. Sandilands, and bark *Lucy Anne*, of Sydney, government vessel, J. Currey, master, for the purpose of removing the inhabitants of Pitcairn’s Island to Tahiti.

“*March* 6.—All the inhabitants embarked and sailed for Tahiti.

“*March* 21.—Soon after our arrival at Tahiti, the Pitcairn people were taken sick.

“1831.—John Buffett and family, Robert Young, Joseph Christian, &c., sailed





John Adams' Grave on Pitcairn Island.

from Tahiti, in a small schooner; but, owing to contrary winds, they landed at Lord Hood's Island.

“*June 21.*—John Buffett, and the others on Lord Hood's Island, embarked in the French frigate Bordeaux Packet, and on the 27th landed at Pitcairn's Island. During our absence our hogs have gone wild, and destroyed our crops. After we returned, we employed ourselves in destroying the hogs.

“1838, *November 29.*—Arrived, H. M. S. Fly, Captain Russell Elliott, with a present from Rev. Mr. Rowlandson and congregation at Valparaiso. Captain Elliott proposed electing a chief-magistrate, which was adopted; and Edward Quintal was chosen.

“This island was taken possession of by Captain Elliott, on behalf of the Crown of Great Britain, on the 29th of November, 1838.

“1839, *November 9.*—Arrived, H. M. S. Sparrowhawk, Captain J. Shepherd. The captain, several officers, and Gen. Friere, ex-president of Chili, landed. In the af-

ternoon the school-children were examined, and received the approbation of our respected visitors. Captain Shepherd afterward divided some valuable presents among them.

“10.—Captain Shepherd and his officers attended divine service twice. At 5 P. M. they went on board. They sailed on the 12th.

“1840, *February* 8.—Mrs. Nobbs received a severe contusion on the shoulder, by the falling of a cocoa-nut from the tree.

“*February* 13.—Moses Young fell from a cocoa-nut tree, at least forty feet high, and was but slightly injured.

“1841, *August* 18.—Arrived, H. M. S. Curaçoa, Captain Jenkin Jones; and a most opportune arrival it was, for there were at least twenty cases of influenza among us.” The register goes on to describe the valuable services rendered by Captain Jones and the surgeon of the ship, Dr. Gunn. The Curaçoa sailed on the 20th.

“*September* 19.—Died, Isabella, a native of Tahiti, relict of Fletcher Christian, of the *Bounty*. Her age was not known;



but she frequently said she remembered Captain Cook arriving at Tahiti.

“1843, *March* 4.—Eleven of the inhabitants sailed in the bark *America*, for the purpose of exploring Elizabeth Island.

“5.—Arrived, H. M. S. *Talbot*, Captain Sir T. Thompson, Bart. After remaining on shore, and adjusting some of the most pressing judicial cases presented to him, he went on board, and sailed for Valparaiso.

“11.—Bark *America* returned from Elizabeth Island, our people bringing a very unfavourable report of it.

“1844, *July* 28.—Arrived, H. M. S. *Basilisk*, Captain Henry Hunt, bringing presents from the British government.

“1845, *January* 19.—During the last week we have been employed in fishing up two of the *Bounty*’s large guns. For fifty-five years they have been deposited at the bottom of the sea, on a bed of coral, guiltless of blood during the time so many thousands of mankind became, in Europe, food for cannon. But on Saturday last, one of the guns resumed its natural vocation—at least the innoxious portion of it—to wit,

pouring forth fire and smoke, and causing the island to reverberate with its bellowing; the other gun is condemned to silence, having been spiked by some one in the *Bounty*.

“1845, *April* 16.”—The diary of this date contains a striking description of a storm, which, bursting over the island, greatly alarmed the inhabitants. A considerable portion of the earth was detached from the side of the hill situate at the head of a ravine, and carried into the sea; about 300 cocoa-nut trees were torn up by the roots, and borne along with it; a yam-ground, containing 1000 yams, totally disappeared; several fishing-boats were destroyed, and large pieces of rock were found blocking up the harbour in several parts. In the interior, all the plantain patches were levelled, and about 4000 plantain-trees destroyed, one-half in full bearing, the other designed for the year 1846. “So that,” says the annalist, “this very valuable article of food we shall be without for a long time. The fact is, that from this date until August, we shall be

pinched for food. But God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb; and we humbly trust that the late monitions of Providence, namely, drought, sickness, and storm, which severally have afflicted us this year, may be sanctified to us, and be the means of bringing us, one and all, into a closer communion with our God. May we remember the rod, and who hath appointed it. May we flee to the cross of Christ for safety and succour in every time of need, always bearing in mind that our heavenly Father doth not willingly afflict the children of men."

The details which follow, respecting a serious accident to the pastor's eldest son, Reuben E. Nobbs, which resulted in what appears to be confirmed lameness, are so characteristic of the kind and brotherly feeling subsisting in the island, that they must be quoted in full.

"1847, *February* 20.—This afternoon, as Reuben Nobbs was out in the mountain, shooting goats, his foot slipped, and he let fall his musket, which exploded and wounded him severely. The ball entered a little

below the hip-joint, and passing downward, came through on the inside of the thigh, about half-way between the groin and the knee. Providentially, some persons were within call, who immediately ran to his assistance, and tore up their shirts to stanch the blood, which was pouring forth profusely. A lad was despatched to the village with the melancholy news; and in a few minutes the whole of the inhabitants capable of going were on their way to afford relief, headed by his affectionate mother, who was almost frantic with grief. In about an hour they returned, bearing him in a canoe, which they had taken up for that purpose. After some difficulty the blood was stanchcd, and the lad suffered but little pain. Every person was anxious to render assistance; the greater part of the male inhabitants remained at night, to be ready at a moment's warning to do any thing that might be required. Toward midnight he fell asleep; and so ends this melancholy day.

“21.—About daylight the wounded lad awoke, very much refreshed; he does not

complain much, and has but little fever. The men and grown lads have formed themselves into three watches, to attend his wants, both day and night. It is most gratifying to his parents to see the esteem in which their son is held.

“22.—Reuben Nobbs is free from pain, but there is a considerable accession of fever; it does not appear that either the thigh or hip-bone is injured, as he can move his leg without much difficulty or pain. From the great length of the internal wound, it is difficult to ascertain whether any of the wadding remains where the ball must have passed through.

“26.—This morning a ship was reported; everybody appeared rejoiced, hoping to get some necessaries for their wounded friend. On nearing the island, she proved to be H. M. S. *Spy*, Captain Wooldridge. ‘Thank God!’ was the grateful exclamation of many, on hearing it was a ship of war, on account of her having a surgeon on board. At 1 p. m. Captain Wooldridge and the surgeon (Dr. Bowden) landed, who immediately visited young

Nobbs; and after probing the wound, and ascertaining the extent of the injury, gave his opinion that there was not much danger, and that with proper attention he would, in all probability, recover, although a narrower escape from death never came beneath his notice. Captain Wooldridge, being much pressed for time, informed the inhabitants he must sail that evening. After kindly interesting himself in the welfare of the island, and noting down such things as the community were most in want of, at sunset the Spy sailed for Valparaiso.

“*June 4.*—Experienced a heavy gale from the westward, which, if it had been of long duration, would have done incalculable damage. A large piece of the banyan-tree was blown down, and the flag-staff broken in two pieces.

“1848, *March 9.*—Arrived H. M. S. Calypso, Captain H. Worth.

“10.—At 9 A. M. Captain Worth, and a party of officers, landed; and the greeting on both sides was most cordial. Our people, men, women, and children, are almost beside themselves.”

Many valuable and useful presents were brought to the island. The next day the ship was discovered four miles from the land. Captain Worth, Dr. Domet, and others, again landed. The doctor wishing to inspect the hieroglyphics, carved by the aborigines, went down the face of the cliff without the assistance of a rope—a most hazardous feat. It is stated that he was the first European who had performed it.

“At sunset the Calypso sailed, carrying with her our grateful aspirations,” &c.

“1849, *July 10.*”—A very animated description is given, under this date, of the arrival of “the Pandora, Captain Wood, from Oahu and Tahiti, bringing us Mr. Buffett back, who left us for the Sandwich Islands last summer.

“*July 11.*—This evening, Captain Wood left us, to our great regret; for though our acquaintance was but of two days’ duration, the urbanity of Captain Wood, and his solicitude for our welfare, have made a deep and, we hope, a lasting impression on our hearts. That the good ship Pandora,

and all her gallant crew, may escape the perils of the deep, and before many months have elapsed, show her number some early day at Spithead, is the wish of their friends residing on the rock of the West.

“*August 9.*—The inhabitants are slowly recovering from the epidemic which has pervaded the island during the last month. So general was the attack, that the public school has been discontinued, and public service but once performed on each Sabbath, in consequence; the teacher being fully employed attending the sick.

“*11.*—Arrived, H. M. S. Daphne, Captain Fanshawe, from Valparaiso, bringing the *desiderata* of the community, viz. a bull, cow, and some rabbits. They were landed without any difficulty by our own boats. We also received from the Rev. Mr. Armstrong several boxes of acceptable articles, and a large case of books from the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. At 3 P. M. Captain Fanshawe and a party of the officers landed. At sunset they returned on board again, except the surgeon, who remained on shore, at the particular



request of Mr. Nobbs, who required some advice about the sick.

“12.—At 1 P.M. Captain Fanshawe returned on shore, with a fresh party of officers, and attended divine service. Much persuasion was used by our young people to induce Captain F. to remain another day, but he told them he could not do so with propriety. At sunset they all returned on board, and H.M.S. Daphne sailed for Tahiti. Captain F. (as well as his officers) treated those of our people who went on board most kindly, and made most minute inquiries into our wants and actual condition. They were pleased to express their satisfaction at what they saw and heard, and left us deeply impressed with their courtesy and urbanity. May Almighty God have them in his holy keeping!

“*September 6.*—A large-hair seal captured on the west side of the island. Fletcher Christian first discovered it among the rocks, and was much alarmed at the sight of it. He feared to go near it, lest it should be a ghost, (of which he has a great horror,) or some beast of prey, but

quickly ascended the hill which overlooks the town, and gave the alarm. Some persons went over to his assistance, and shot the animal just as it was making its retreat into the sea.

“20.—*This day was set apart as a day of fasting and prayer.* Public service commenced at 11 A.M. and ended at 1 P.M. All who could get to church attended. Text, Romans ii. 4, 5. One of the females fainted during service.”

“SUMMARY.

“This year is unprecedented in the annals of Pitcairn’s Island. We have been visited by two British men-of-war, the Pandora, Captain Wood, and the Daphne, Captain Fanshawe. The commanders of these ships, and their officers, treated the inhabitants with the greatest kindness, and were pleased to express their entire approval of all they saw and heard. Another (to us) wonderful occurrence is the arrival of so many other ships under English colours, viz. eight from the Australian colonies, bound for California, and

one whaling vessel from London; in all, nine merchantmen and two ships of war. American ships have dwindled down to six whalers and one from California; in her, Reuben E. Nobbs embarked for Valparaiso.

“George Adams saved the life of a child alongside of a ship in the offing.

“The inhabitants, with scarcely one exception, have suffered from sickness very severely during the months of August, September, and October. The school was discontinued, the children being too sick to attend, and the teacher was fully (and, thank God! efficiently) employed in ministering from house to house. Some of the cases were quite alarming, and the disease (the influenza) in general was more severe, but considerably modified from that of former years; violent spasms in the stomach and epigastric region were frequent in all stages of the complaint. At the close of the year, the inhabitants are enjoying much better health. May the recent affliction teach us so to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom!”

“1850, *January 23*.—This day was observed as the anniversary of the settlement of this colony, sixty years since. One survivor of that strange event, and sanguinary result, witnessed its celebration.\* At daylight one of the *Bounty's* guns was discharged, and awakened the sleeping echoes and the more drowsy of its inhabitants. At 10 A. M. divine service was performed. After the service, various letters received from the British government and principal friends were read, and commented upon. At twelve o'clock, (noon,) a number of musketeers assembled under the flag-staff, and fired a volley in honour of the day. After dinner, males and females assembled in front of the church, (where the British flag was flying,) and gave three cheers for Queen Victoria, three for the government at home, three for the magistrate here, three for absent friends, three for the ladies, and three for the community in general, amid the firing of muskets and ringing of the bell. At sunset,

---

\* Susannah, who died on the 15th of July following.

the gun of the *Bounty* was again fired, and the day closed in harmony and peace, both toward God and man. It is voted that an annual celebration be observed.

“1850, *March* 24.—Daniel McCoy and Lydia Young married.

“*June* 3.—John Pitcairns Elford (native of Adelaide, New South Wales) baptized.

“*July* 15.—Susannah (a native of Tahiti, and last survivor of the *Bounty*) died from the prevailing epidemic and the exhaustion of old age combined.

“*September* 27.—Mrs. Eliza C. Palmer, wife of George Palmer, of Nantucket, died of consumption.

“28.—Edward Quintal (second) fell from the precipice upon the rocks below, and badly fractured his leg.

“*December* 24.—Charles William Grant born, son of the master of a whaler, whose wife had been left on the island.

“1851, *January* 1.—Thursday O. Christian elected chief magistrate. John Buffett, Jr., and Thomas Buffett, counselors.

“23.—Observed the anniversary of the

settlement of the colony. David Buffett and Martha Young married.

“*March* 15.—By the accidental discharge of a fowling-piece in a whale-boat that was out fishing, three persons, viz. Abraham Quintal, John Buffett, and Fletcher Nobbs, were seriously injured.

“*August* 16.—Twelve of the inhabitants sailed in the Joseph Meigs for the purpose of visiting Elizabeth Island. On their arrival at the island they discovered a human skeleton; and as nothing could be found that may lead to discover who this unfortunate individual was, it must remain a mystery.

“*November* 11.—Thirty-eight of the inhabitants sailed in the ship Sharon, of Fairhaven, for the purpose of visiting Elizabeth Island. On Friday, 14th, after a boisterous passage of three days, they landed upon Elizabeth Island, when they immediately set about wooding the ship, and exploring the country, which is evidently of coral formation. The soil is very scanty, and totally unfit for cultivation. Various specimens of marine shells are dispersed

all over the surface of the island, which, in combination with the thickly scattered pieces of coral, renders travelling both difficult and dangerous. Water is found on the north-west part of the island slowly dripping from the roof of a cave, which cannot be reached without the aid of ropes. The island rises about sixty feet above the level of the sea. Eight human skeletons were also found upon the island, lying in caves. They were doubtless the remains of some unfortunate shipwrecked seamen, as several pieces of a wreck were found upon the shore.

“1852, *January* 2.—Abraham B. Quintal elected chief-magistrate; Frederick Young and David Buffett, counsellors.

“7.—At about 1 P. M. intelligence was brought to the village that Robert (a native of one of the Society Islands, and who was left here sick from the American whale-ship *Balæna*) was washed from off the rocks by the surf; those who were at hand when the news was told, immediately hastened to the place to learn the truth of the statement. Upon arriving

there, and not seeing any thing of him, search was made along the rocks. This also proving unsuccessful, some of the men went in their canoes to search for him outside of the rocks. A few minutes after the canoes were launched, his hat was found some thirty or forty yards from the rocks. Being convinced from this that the man was drowned, the search was continued with renewed vigour, and, about an hour after, his body was seen lying at the bottom, in about seven fathoms of water, and about twenty yards from where he was washed off. The men succeeded in recovering the body, which was interred the same evening. It is but justice to the memory of this poor man to add, that his good and quiet behaviour while among us had gained for him the esteem and goodwill of all upon the island, and that his untimely end is deeply regretted by the whole community.

“29.—At break of day a ship was reported close in with the shore; all who had turned out of their beds hastened to the edge of the precipice to ascertain the



truth of the statement. Scarcely had they done so, when, from the heraldic bearing of her colours, she was by the teacher pronounced to be a man-of-war. The whale-boat was immediately manned, and in the course of a few hours she returned to the shore, bringing with them Captain Wellesley, and others of the officers of H. M. S. *Dædalus*, from the Sandwich Islands, bound to Valparaiso. Captain Wellesley and his officers remained on shore all night, and returned on board the following morning, when a fresh party landed from the ship. Captain Wellesley and his officers were pleased to express their approbation of what they saw upon the island, and have, by the urbanity of their conduct during the few hours they were with us, gained the good-will and esteem of all the inhabitants.

“ 31.—At half-past seven this morning Captain Wellesley and his officers returned on board, and the *Dædalus* left this for Valparaiso, bearing the good wishes of the island.

“ *April* 5.—Fletcher Christian died, af

ter a lingering illness of many months duration, aged forty years. As a member of the community, the conduct of Fletcher Christian was ever worthy of imitation; suffice it to say, that his many amiable and agreeable qualities will cause his memory long to be cherished by those he has left behind."

The following returns of births, deaths, and marriages, and some other particulars, have been drawn chiefly from the authentic statements in the Register of the Island.

"1845.—Births, 7; deaths, 0; marriages, 2: males, 65; females, 62; total, 127: 51 children attend the school.

"1846.—Births, 7; death, 1; marriages, 0: males, 69; females, 65; total, 134: 47 children attend public school.

"1847.—Births, 6; deaths, 0; marriages, 0: males, 72; females, 68; total, 140: 48 children attend the school.

"1848.—Births, 7; death, 1; marriages, 3: males, 74; females, 72; total, 146: 44 children attend the school; 30 scholars, of 14 years old and upward, attend the Sunday-school. The attendance at the

Wednesday Bible-class for adults quite satisfactory.

“1849.—Births, 10; death, 1; marriage, 1: males, 76; females, 79; total, 155: 47 children attend the school, 30 the Sunday school.

“1850.—Births, 4; deaths, 3; marriage, 1: inhabitants, 156: males, 79; females, 76. Number of ships touching here, 47: American, 29; English, 17; Hanoverian, 1.

“1851.—Births, 12; deaths, 2; marriages, 3: inhabitants, 166; 81 females, and 85 males. Number of ships touching here, 24: American 18; English 6.

“1852.—The number of inhabitants is now 170: 88 males; 82 females.”

About 330 vessels have touched at Pitcairn since 1808.

The last vessel mentioned on the list is the *Virago*. In connection with her visit to the island is recorded a melancholy accident, which occurred at Pitcairn, toward the end of January, 1853, and which must have spread a gloom over the small but united band of friends, in whose welfare and happiness so many sympathize. The

account cannot be given in any words so well as those of the Rev. W. H. Holman, their pastor, teacher, and medical friend, in Mr. Nobbs's absence.

The *Virago* had left Callao for Pitcairn on an errand of kindness. Some of her officers and crew had visited the island, and were about to sail, on their return, when Mr. Holman wrote :—

“January 29, 1853.

“Captain Prevost had wished all good-by, and gone on board the *Virago*, to start for Tahiti, when there occurred one of the most awful accidents that have ever taken place on the island. The magistrate, Matthew McCoy, and two others, went to load an old gun that had been in the *Bounty*, to salute the *Virago* on her departure. It appears that the rammer he used was an old rafter, on the top of which was a nail. While in the act of ramming home the powder, the friction caused by the nail effected the explosion of the powder. Matthew was blown away, several yards from the gun, and his arm

knocked to pieces. The two others were severely wounded, together with an awful shock to all of them. I was at my house at the time, having just dined, and ran, down, thinking it was the Virago's gun fired, as a farewell. Of course I found out what it was; and, by the time I got them conveyed to the nearest house, the surgeons of the steamer arrived.

“After two or three hours, Matthew's arm was amputated, and the doctor said, if he recovered from the shock he would do very well; but I am sorry to say that, after lingering eight hours in great agony, though sensible, he died. He was not only one of the best men on the island, but, I am happy to say, one of the best prepared for death. The other two, though severely hurt, are going on favourably, and, I trust, will recover.”

This mournful news had not reached Mr. Nobbs when he quitted Valparaiso; nor, in all probability, was he made acquainted with the sad intelligence until his arrival at Pitcairn. In this case, the event must have given a tinge of sorrow to a

meeting which was anticipated with so much joy. However, man proposeth but God disposeth: and of this the disciplined minds of the islanders are well aware.

Matthew McCoy was a grandson of William McCoy, the mutineer, and was about thirty-five years of age. He was married to Margaret Christian, a sister of Mrs. Nobbs, and had a large family.

## CONCLUSION.

READER! Our narrative is ended. Our story has been told. But do not, we entreat you, turn from it and throw this little book aside without extracting from it profitable thoughts. It is not for your amusement only that we have laid before you these thrilling facts, and we would not have you go from their perusal unbenefited. The butterfly flits from flower to flower, but it draws from them no honey. Not so the bee: within the fair blossom she finds sweet food for herself and others. So would we have you enter within this story of crime, of retribution, and of happiness, and gather from it things profitable to yourself and to your fellow-creatures. Suffer us to call your attention briefly to a few of the lessons suggested by the history of the mutineers of the *Bounty* and their descendants.

*We may first notice the evils of an unchecked temper.* How much misery and how much crime might have been saved, had the commander of the *Bounty* controlled his angry passions. “Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry, for anger resteth in the bosom of fools,” and “a fool’s wrath is presently known,” says the wise man: and so was it with Captain Bligh. “He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding;” but he was not slow to wrath, and his folly and sin in his anger bore bitter fruit both to himself and to others. There is every reason to believe that had he controlled his angry passions, and refrained from the irritating abuse of his officers and men, the voyage of the *Bounty* would have come to a happy end. Many seek to excuse themselves for outbursts of anger by saying that they are not hypocrites—that they say no worse of a man behind his back than they do to his face—that it is better to speak out your mind than to cherish a grudge, &c. But, be assured, God will not accept of these vain excuses. God commands us to be slow to wrath,



and tells us, that "he that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city." Well would it have been had Captain Bligh pondered these words and put a check upon his lips.

Those in authority should learn not to abuse that authority—to be moderate and gentle as well as firm. It is a most mistaken notion that harsh and profane language are excusable in those in command, whether at sea or on shore. No man likes to be cursed and sworn at; nor should he like it. In many cases, besides that of the *Bounty*, the fearful crimes of mutiny, violence and murder, have grown out of the irritation caused by angry and abusive words.

And on the other hand, how impressively are *those under authority admonished* by this narrative, to beware how they undertake to avenge their own wrongs, whether real or supposed! "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord;" but Fletcher Christian and his fellows resolved to avenge themselves. How fearful was the retri-

bution inflicted upon them by the hand of God! Of the fourteen seamen taken from Tahiti in the Pandora, four were acquitted, having taken no part in the mutiny, four were drowned in the wreck of that vessel, three were sentenced to death and only escaped through the king's pardon, and three were hung at the yard-arm of a man-of-war in England. A fifteenth was murdered by a fellow-seaman in Tahiti, who was himself murdered by the Tahitians. Of the nine who landed on Pitcairn's Island, five were murdered by Tahitians, a sixth was shot by his companions, another threw himself from the rocks and was killed, and two only died natural deaths. Surely here is an awful lesson to young men, and especially to seamen. Let them beware how they take the law into their own hands, for though for a while they may escape human punishment, yet in the end the eye of God will search them out, and his hand will punish them. "The way of transgressors is hard."

We find also in this narrative a striking

instance of *the value of the Word of God*. On a little rocky island in the midst of the Pacific ocean, secluded from the world, are nine Englishmen, with a few idolatrous companions from Tahiti. Hateful and hating one another, they seem left a prey to their own depraved passions, that they may teach us a lesson as to the wretched state of man by nature, and prove a beacon light to warn us of the downward course of crime. Lust, oppression, violence, drunkenness and murder fill and close the scene until one man alone remains, surrounded by a group of semi-pagan children with their heathen mothers. What could we expect of such a race but that they should grow up in vice and idolatry, to die godless, hopeless, and wretched. But behold the goodness and mercy of God! There is a BIBLE upon the island. Convinced of his sin and danger by the Spirit of God, that solitary man went to this Bible, and in it found the way of life. His eyes were opened—his heart was changed—he became a new man, and Pitcairn a new island. No longer an abode

of sin and misery, a den of thieves, a hiding-place of murderers, but rather a garden of the Lord clothed with beauty, and adorned by innocent simplicity and godliness, it has been called "The Paradise of the Pacific." The story is thus briefly told by Mr. Nobbs, in a sermon preached in the city of London, in November, 1852.

"And now, my brethren, will you bear with me for a few moments, while I refer to circumstances which have come in a great measure under my own immediate notice, in the community over which I have for nearly twenty-five years been the unworthy pastor?

"Many years ago, an officer and some seamen belonging to the British navy, after committing an unjustifiable act—that of mutiny—fled for safety to Pitcairn, an isolated rock in the South Pacific Ocean, taking with them some Tahitian men and women. Within ten years, all the men, with the exception of two, came to an untimely end; one of these two died of consumption; and the last of this party of mutineers was left on the island with five or

six heathen women, and twenty fatherless children. After some time, this man, John Adams by name, became seriously impressed with the responsibility of the situation in which he was placed. Here were a number of young persons, between the ages of five and fifteen years, growing up in ignorance of the God who made them. And they would, humanly speaking, in a few years have become confirmed idolaters, from the example of their heathen mothers.

“These considerations weighed heavily on Adams’s mind; and it was then that he had two alarming dreams, which so affected him, that he could scarcely eat or sleep for some time; when he bethought himself of the Bible, brought on shore from the *Bounty*, which had been much used by Christian, and also by Young in his last illness. After some search he found it, and commenced reading it, imperfectly at first, for he had never been to school, but had taught himself what he did know from scraps of paper picked up by him, when a boy, in the streets of

London. Being, however, a man of excellent natural abilities, he was soon enabled to read with facility. He commenced praying in secret three times a day; nor did he pray in vain; his mind became enlightened, he saw his guilt and danger; and he was almost tempted to despair of pardon. Still, as he persevered in reading the Bible, he gradually became acquainted with the gospel method of salvation; and, by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, was enabled to come to Him who is mighty to save. In short, my brethren, he was brought to Jesus.

“Now, mark the result. From this time he commenced instructing the children of the mutineers, first by reading to them portions of the Scriptures, and subsequently teaching them to read for themselves; and so anxious were the young people to learn, that on one occasion two of the lads, who were employed by Adams to make a mattock of iron from the wreck of the *Bounty*, instead of accepting the promised compensation, (a quantity of gunpowder,) told Adams they would rather he should give

them some extra lessons from God's Book, —a name by which they used to designate the Bible. And now peace and contentment pervaded this rock of the West. The young men and women entered into the social relations of husband and wife; and they, in turn, depending on that most precious promise of their all-sufficient Saviour, 'Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them,' instructed their children with that knowledge which is better than riches. They brought them to Jesus.

"The population of this settlement now amounts to 170 persons, who are living without any dissensions. When I, their pastor, took a sorrowful leave of them, about three months since, they were strong in faith, giving glory to God. That they, and all who hear me this day, may be included in that most precious invitation, 'Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world,' may God of His infinite mercy grant, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen."

Who will not respond to the prayer that this happy family may be kept by the power of God from the seductions of sin? He has, on that little speck of dry land, almost lost amid the ceaseless heavings of the vast ocean that surrounds it, by his providence taught us great truths, and we would thank him for the story of the Pitcairn Islanders. We here see unfolded his ceaseless watchfulness over all his creatures, his hatred of sin, and his punishment of crime even in this world. But we also see the wonders of his mercy—the boundlessness of his forgiving grace. The mutineer and murderer is made a patriarch and a preacher of righteousness—the abode of strife and every crime becomes by the power of his Spirit the seat of virtue, piety, and love to God and man—and the descendants of the vile are adopted as the children of the High and Holy One. Soon may the same Spirit work the same change in every land, and the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ! Amen.















996  
H752m

Home of the mutineers

AUTHOR

TITLE

DATE DUE	BORROWER'S NAME

996  
H752m

